

THE ZOIST.

No. XIII.

APRIL, 1846.

I. *Accounts of more painless Surgical Operations.*

Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"While still a mere child, he (Lord Bacon) stole away from his playmates to a vault in St. James's Fields, for the purpose of investigating the cause of a singular echo which he had discovered there; and, when a little older, he amused himself with very ingenious speculations on the art of *legerdemain*, at present flourishing under the title of *memnerium*."—*Life of Lord Bacon*, in the *Lives of the Lord Chancellors*. By JOHN LORD CAMPBELL, A.M., F.R.S.E. Vol. II., p. 269.

"In the diary of the famous Elias Ashmole, under date 23rd October, 1682, we find this entry: 'My Lord Chancellor Finch sent for me to cure him of his rheumatism. I dined there, but would not undertake the cure.' On calculating the Lord Chancellor's nativity, I presume it was ascertained that the aspect of the stars was unfavourable. If he joined Dryden in such vagaries, need we be much astonished when we find grave characters believing in *memnerium* at the present day?"—*Life of Lord Nottingham*, in ditto. Vol. III., p. 422.

I. Two removals of Cancer from the Breast, in America.

In *The Zoist* for October last (No. XI.), I recorded the removal of a lady's cancerous breast in the mesmeric state, without any pain, on the 20th of January, 1845, by Dr. Dugas, Professor of Physiology in the Medical College of Georgia. The *whole breast*, weighing sixteen ounces, with the tumor in it as large as a turkey's egg, was cut away with two elliptical incisions, *each eight inches in length*; the integuments were dissected in the usual manner, and the wound was left open for about *three quarters of an hour* while six bleeding blood-vessels were tied. The patient gave no indication whatever of sensation, but remained all the time in a *sound mesmeric sleep*. The *placidity of her countenance was unaltered*, the *natural blush of her cheeks undiminished*; so that, had the several eminent physicians present observed her without knowing that an operation was performing, *none of them would have suspected such a thing*: and, on her being awakened to her natural state after having been dressed again in her sleep, she was not aware that the operation had been performed, was anxious that it should not be delayed as she wished to return home from Augusta city, and for a short

time fancied that Dr. Dugas was joking when he assured her that the operation was over. She became convinced only on carrying her hand to the part and finding that the breast was no longer there. "She remained apparently unmoved for a few moments, when, her friends approaching to congratulate her, her face became flushed and she wept unaffectedly for some time."

What can be the cerebral composition and organization of the medical man who can read this and not be deeply affected; and, at the same time, not feel almost ashamed at belonging to a body of men, the very great majority of whom proudly scoff at mesmerism as a thing totally unfit for their condescending notice for a single moment, and whose highest medical society—the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London—so vociferously scouted a history presented to them of a similar operation that, after bestowing all the contempt of which they were capable upon the subject, the patient, the mesmeriser and the surgeon, they would not allow a syllable to remain upon their minutes that might divulge to posterity the disgraceful fact that such a communication had been received and listened to by them!—a madness, and a conceit, and a hard-heartedness, equal to that of the council of University College, who, without the decent courtesy of a previous deliberation with me or any intimation to me, peremptorily forbade any patient to receive the benefit of mesmerism in their hospital, and desired their secretary only to shew me their resolution, in abject obedience to Mr. Wakley who had declared that they should take this measure—had declared that mesmerism should be no longer employed in any hospital. "Do you read what is said in the *Lancet*?" said Mr. William Tooke, one of the council and of the committee of management and treasurer of the hospital, to a friend of mine to justify their doings.* What can be the cerebral

* The council were—

The Duke of Somerset,
Lord Brougham,
Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, Bart.
S. Duckworth, M.P.
Mr. Ewart, M.P.,
— Leader, M.P.,
— J. Romilly, M.P.
— E. Strutt, M.P.
— Thornly, M.P.
— W. Tooke, M.P.
— Warburton, M.P.,
Dr. Booth,

Mr. G. J. Bishop,
— J. Booth,
— G. B. Greenough,
— E. Holland,
— E. N. Hurt,
— R. Hutton,
— J. R. Mill,
— J. L. Prevost,
— W. C. Robinson,
— J. Taylor,
— H. Waymouth,
— C. Wood.

Sir I. Goldsmid made a great stand for mesmerism, and afterwards moved that I should be requested to withdraw my resignation, and was supported by Lord Brougham, Mr. Tooke, and Mr. Bishop. Mr. W. Crabb Robinson would have joined him, but was absent.

composition and organization of that man, and him a husband, a father, a brother, and getting his living on the ground of professing to relieve the sick of their sufferings, who unblushingly rose in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, and moved and carried, without one dissenting voice, the erasure of the minutes, even containing no account, but only a very short allusion to the detail of the painless amputation;* and protested that he would not have the pain of poor wretches under surgical treatment lessened or prevented, because it was a good thing, a wise ordination of the Almighty.† Yet this good man goes about taking money for prescribing opium and other anodynes, and, with sympathy in his looks and tones, professes to patients his great anxiety to lessen their sufferings. Does he not endeavour to frustrate this wise provision in tooth-ache, rheumatism, cancer, &c., instead of telling patients to thank God for their agony as it

* "A secretary read as minutes of the preceding meeting merely that such a paper had been read; no abstract being given according to the established custom of the society."—See my pamphlet entitled *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without pain in the Mesmeric State, &c.*, p. 59.

† "Dr. Copland rose to oppose the motion (the routine motion of the chairman for confirmation of the minutes) on two grounds,—the character of the paper, and the publication of it by the authors without the permission of the society. 'He would allow no trace to remain that such a paper had been read.' The president stopped his arguments on the first point, as the paper had been discussed at a previous meeting and thanks been voted for it. The deadly hostility of Dr. Copland to mesmerism is well known. But to-night he was particularly unwise. He protested that the paper ought not to have been read, because *the author was not a medical man!*—As though knowledge was ever to be despised from any source. Why one of the authors was a surgeon, though neither was a fellow of the society. I have heard papers read at the meetings of the College of Physicians (of which he rejoices to be a fellow) by persons not medical, once by the very reverend Dean of Westminster; and the society has of course no law as to who may be authors of papers: and several members of the society are not medical men. On this point he was set right by more than one member. He then contended that, if the account of the man experiencing no agony during the operation were true, '*the fact was unworthy of their consideration, because pain is a wise provision of nature, and patients ought to suffer pain while their surgeon is operating; they are all the better for it, and recover better!*' Will the world believe that such folly was gravely uttered? This will be remembered as a doctor's speech in 1842, when the doctor himself shall be forgotten. In due consistency, Dr. Copland, when he is about to have a tooth extracted, of course goes to a clumsy dentist and begs the man to give him all the pain he can. In due consistency, he of course gives his patients that physic which he thinks most likely to pinch them well, because they must be all the better for being twisted with sharp pain while *it is operating*; the agony must do them good, and make them anxious to take *his* physic again.

"So the virtuous indignation of a large majority condemned the minutes to non-confirmation,—a most ridiculous proceeding, since, from reporters being admitted, the whole proceedings of the previous meeting were already published in the various journals, and recorded more publicly than they would have been in the minute-book of the society, which nobody sees but the secretary when he writes in it and the president when he signs his name."—Same Pamphlet, pp. 59, 64.

does them good? Dr. Copland for shame! You profess to believe in a "*wise provision*" and the *Bible*, and in your *Bible* you read that, before the Almighty performed what was really a surgical operation upon Adam,—“took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof,” He made “*a wise provision*,”—He spared the human being—the patient—all suffering, by what was tantamount to mesmerism,—He “caused a *deep sleep* to fall upon Adam, and he slept.”*

The barefaced assertion that the agony of surgical operations does people good is disproved by the fact that the most painful operations are not better recovered from than the less painful, and that all the operations performed in the mesmeric state have been well recovered from; many better than is usual in ordinary circumstances. The next generation of the medical world will point back to the present as a sad specimen of untutored, unregulated lower feelings mastering intelligence, manliness, and humanity.

The unfortunate lady, from whose case my feelings compelled me to digress, suffered a return of her disease, and was operated upon again with no more sensation than on the first occasion. The following account is from the same *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, published in Augusta city. The number was for September, 1845, Vol. I., No. 9, p. 508.

“Extirpation of a scirrhus tumor, the patient being in the Mesmeric state, and evincing no sensibility whatever during the operation. By L. A. Dugas, M. D., Professor of Physiology, &c., in the Medical College of Georgia.

“Mrs. Clarke, the lady whose mamma I removed in January last, enjoyed for several months afterwards an unusual degree of health. In the month of May, however, she began to suffer almost daily with slow fever, and perceived a small induration in the adipose tissue surrounding the region formerly occupied by the breast. This soon assumed the form of a distinct tumor, which was increasing in size with some rapidity, and was becoming painful, when, in the early part of June, I advised Mrs. C. to have it extirpated. To this proposal she readily consented, remarking very philosophically, that she would rather have such a tumor removed every six months, than permit it to remain and grow on her. There was no evidence of disease in the axilla.

“I now requested Mr. Kenrick to ascertain whether he could still mesmerise her, and, if she were susceptible, to

* Genesis ii.

repeat the operation a few days, so that we might test her sensibility in that state. Mrs. C. was readily put into the mesmeric state, and found to be entirely insensible during its continuance. Deeming it unnecessary to repeat the tests, I determined to operate on the 13th June, several days sooner than was expected by either herself or her friends. The operation was performed in presence of Professors L. D. Ford and Jos. A. Evc, Drs. L. Kennon and J. F. Hammond, the Rev. Mr. Alfred Ford and Mr. F. J. Martin. The patient was mesmerized at 9 o'clock, a.m., and the extirpation effected at about 10 o'clock, by making a semilunar incision along a portion of the circumference of the tumor, turning over a flap, and dissecting away the indurated mass and surrounding tissues, making up the volume of a hen's egg.

"During the operation, Mr. Kenrick, being blind-folded to avoid the unpleasant spectacle, sat by the patient, with her hands in his. Mr. K. avers that *Mrs. C. evinced no uneasiness by grasping his hands, that her fingers did not twitch, and in short, that her hands remained perfectly passive.* Prof. Ford, whom I had requested to note the *pulse and respiratory act* particularly, informs me that there was *no appreciable change in their character and frequency before, during, and after the operation.* The *countenance of the patient and the hue of her cheeks presented no change whatever, nor was there the least indication of sensibility detected during or subsequently to the operation, by those who were present and anxiously watching the result.* There was neither twitching of the pectoral muscle when touched with the sponge, nor tremor of the lower jaw. *Indeed the patient slept on as quietly as an undisturbed infant, through the entire operation.*

"The wound was left open about half an hour, a small vessel ligated and the ordinary dressing applied. The patient was permitted to sleep on, and awoke spontaneously at a quarter-past 1 o'clock, p.m., in the presence of Dr. Ford, the Rev. Mr. Ford, Mr. Kenrick and myself. Dr. Kennon arrived a moment afterwards. She appeared entirely unconscious of what had been done, and was much surprised as well as gratified, on being informed that the operation was over. She stated that she *had not suspected our design, and had no recollection of having experienced the least uneasiness during her nap.*

"I will add on this occasion, as I did on reporting the former case, that the above statement has been submitted to all the professional gentlemen present, and that they fully concur in its accuracy. This is perhaps the only instance on record in which a serious and painful operation has been twice

performed on the same individual in the mesmeric state, a circumstance that may lend it additional interest with those who are disposed to collect facts on an interesting subject.

"Augusta, 1st July, 1845."

The following private letter was written to a gentleman in London, who was anxious to have the characters of the parties.

"Mayor's Office, City of Augusta, Georgia, U. S. A.
"December 26, 1845.

"Dear Sir,—Your favour of the 29th November is before me. I have great pleasure in replying, to say the Dr. Dugas, the operator in the case you allude to, is a gentleman of the very highest character, both as a man and a physician; and that the most entire confidence may be placed in his statements, being not exaggerated in the slightest degree.

"The professors mentioned as present during the first operation are professors in the Medical College of Georgia, located here.—An institution of the highest respectability.

"The Rev. Mr. Ford, mentioned as present during the second operation, is a clergyman of the episcopal church, who would not have sanctioned any representation which was not strictly true.

"I have pleasure in sending you two numbers of the *South-ern Medical and Surgical Journal*,—a journal issued by the faculty of the college, containing these two cases, and am gratified to perceive that they contain besides these, articles from Professors Means and Ford, by which you may be able to judge of their *professional* character.

"I have requested Dr. Dugas to furnish me a short statement of a third operation, still more wonderful, performed recently upon the same patient, which if I receive in time I will inclose; and if not, I will send the number of the journal that may hereafter contain it, to your address.

"I have neglected to say that the professors and other gentlemen present are men of the highest character.

"M. M. DYE, Mayor, C. A.

"To Robert H. Gould,
"26, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden,
"London."

"State of Georgia, U.S.A. }
City of Augusta. }"

"I, W. Milo Olin, Clerk of the City Council
of the City of Augusta, truly certify that the Hon. M.

M. Dye, whose name is affixed to the forgoing communication, is the Mayor of the City of Augusta, and that said signature is genuine.

"In testimony whereof, I have signed my name, and affixed the Corporate Seal of said City, this 26th day of December, 1845.

"W. MILO OLIN.

"Clerk of the City Council,

"City of Augusta, Georgia.

"[Seal of the City Council, Augusta.]"

Unhappily the disease returned a second time, and the following private account of the third operation was received early enough for transmission to Mr. Gould with the preceding letter by the Honourable the Mayor of Augusta.

"To his Honor Martin M. Dye, Mayor of the City of Augusta.

"Dear Sir,—In compliance with your desire, I furnish you a brief statement of the third and last operation performed on Mrs. Clarke, whilst under the mesmeric influence. A more detailed account of it will be inserted probably in the next number of the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, a copy of which I will cheerfully present you.

"The subject of these remarks is one whose name has already been twice before the public. About the middle of November last, Mrs. Clarke came to the city, and I found that she was suffering considerable annoyance from pain in the right mammary region, which sometimes darted towards the armpit of the same side; that there were two indurated lumps to be felt beneath the skin in the neighbourhood of the cicatrix resulting from the last operation, and that one of the axillary glands was considerably enlarged. Her general health not as good as usual; irregular febrile paroxysms occurring frequently, especially at night; very low-spirited and apprehensive that another operation would certainly prove fatal, particularly if the arm-pit had to be attacked.

"Perceiving, however, that the removal of the tumors was all that could be done with the slightest possibility of averting their rapid development, she consented to have those removed from the mammary region first, and, after the wound had healed, she would submit to the more formidable operation on the axilla, if she bore the first without pain. With this understanding, she was daily mesmerised by Mr. Kenrick with as much facility as heretofore. Whilst in this state I tested her sensibility and became satisfied that she would not feel the operation. I then determined to operate on the

19th day of November, to remove the mammary tumors first, and if she proved to be insensible, to go on immediately to the extirpation of the axillary gland. This determination was carefully concealed from the patient and her friends.

"On the appointed day, Mrs. C. was mesmerised at about half-past 9 o'clock, a.m., and the operation commenced at about half-past 10. Mr. Kenrick, still preferring to be blindfolded, lest he might be affected, a handkerchief was placed over his eyes, and he held the hands of the patient in his own during the operation. The two tumors on the chest were included between two elliptic incisions, each about three inches long, and dissected out. It was then perceived that some of the adjacent tissue had a bad appearance, and this was removed along with another small portion of skin.

"No evidence of sensibility having been evinced, I announced my intention to proceed to the axilla, and did so after some delay in arresting the bleeding of the wound just made. An incision about four inches long was made through the skin and subcutaneous cellular tissue of the axilla, and the tumor gradually detached by lacerating the surrounding tissues with an ordinary grooved director. *The nervous filaments, so numerous in this region, were broken either with a director or with forceps in such a manner as PURPOSELY to produce the GREATEST POSSIBLE PAIN.* The tumor was globular, about an inch and a half in diameter, and much softer than the normal tissue of these glands. It was very easily torn by the hooks used in elevating it, which, together with the great depth of its position, the use of blunt instead of cutting instruments, and the conviction on the part of the surgeon that as he gave his patient no pain haste was unnecessary, all combined to consume *much more time than is usually required* for such operations. *About an hour elapsed* from the commencement of the first extirpation to the termination of the last. The wounds were allowed to remain open about an hour more and then dressed with adhesive strips. The patient's dress was then adjusted, and she was permitted to sleep until half-past 2 o'clock, p.m., when her mesmeriser aroused her by an effort of volition, without word or contact.

"*During the whole time the patient remained perfectly quiet, and gave no indication whatever of sensibility nor of muscular contraction.* Lying in the horizontal position, her right arm was raised and placed over the head and remained so during the entire operation, no other person touching her but the mesmeriser and surgeon. There were present Professors Ford and Means, of the Med. College of

Georgia; Doctors J. Carter, J. A. Hammond, H. F. Campbell, W. H. Tutt, E. Barry, Hitchcock (of the U. S. Army); and Messrs. Wright (Judge of the Superior Court of Georgia), J. Harris, jun., and L. C. Dugas, Esq., also Dr. Wilson.

"I am, very respectfully,

"Your obedient Servant,

"L. A. DUGAS, M.D.,

*Prof. Physiol. and Path. Anat. in the
Med. Col. of Georgia.*

"Augusta, Georgia, 26th December, 1845."

For these accounts I am indebted to Mr. Gould, late of the United States' Legation, from whom they were kindly brought to me by Dr. Brabant, of Devizes.

I shall be pardoned for expressing my extreme regret that mesmerism was not daily employed after each operation by these enlightened gentlemen to prevent or retard the return of the disease. The surgical removal of cancer of the breast or uterus very rarely prevents a return of the disease. Surgeons sometimes operate upon those parts when there is no cancer, and then boast of the permanent success of their operation. I have known very many examples of this; and I have known operations proposed, have prevented them, and cured the disease by hydriodate of potass, employed externally and internally, being satisfied it was not cancerous. A lady at Leicester, where the medical men have witnessed such results of mesmerism that it is a very great disgrace to them, as mere men, not as professedly scientific and medical men, not to employ it extensively instead of being contented with making their daily rounds to write for only draughts, lotions, ointments, &c., well remembers that some years ago a great city operator of one of the borough hospitals assured her that her safety required her breast to be cut away within a very few days, and that I assured her she had no cancer at all, and cured her to this hour by one prescription for hydriodate of potass, internally and externally. Mild diseases are sometimes pronounced dangerous, and mild and curable diseases called by the names of severe and incurable ones, and a cure is afterwards declared to have been effected; and this is the habitual rascality of professed quacks. We have no remedy for cancer. But I am treating an instance of it in the breast with astonishing advantage by mesmerism. A single person, nearly forty years old, had a genuine scirrhus tumor of the right breast. It was of stony hardness, and the seat of severe stabbing pains which prevented her from sleep-

ing except by snatches, and for more than five hours altogether in the night, and the pain went as low as the elbow: the nipple was drawn in, and the surrounding surface puckered. Her frame was grown very feeble, her flesh wasted, her appetite impaired, and her pulse was quick and weak,—like the American lady, “she began to suffer almost daily with slow fever.” I began in March, 1843, to mesmerise her with the view of enabling her to go through the extirpation of her breast without suffering. After mesmerising her *daily half an hour for a month*, sleep was induced: but for *six months* the sleep did not increase, and the faintest word spoken to her always woke her up, and she felt pinching and was awakened by it. In September I left town for a continental holiday of six weeks. The family general practitioner, Mr. Powel, of Coram Street, who had nothing to do with her case, and, notwithstanding he had witnessed the facts at University College Hospital, followed the worthy doctors and surgeons of the place in considering mesmerism all a humbug, though he is now converted, assured her in my absence that, if the breast was not removed immediately, it would be as big as his hat before Christmas and she would then soon die. He took her to Mr. Samuel Cooper, Professor of Surgery at University College, who thought the operation might be deferred till my return, but could not with safety be deferred any longer. She wisely and honestly disregarded what they said, considering herself under the care of me alone. I had left her in charge of a person to be mesmerised for me; but, on my return, found she had retrograded in her health and sufferings. However, I myself took her in hand again, and in a few weeks by my again devoting half an hour daily to her she presently improved in all respects; and, in about *eight months* from the time I first took her in hand, went into sleep-waking, answering questions in a whisper without waking, and bearing any pinching or pricking without notice. In March (1844) she had a severe pleurisy on the same side as the cancer. I had her bled in the mesmeric state without her knowledge, and she bore efficient blisters without the slightest sensation; for, as any one could send her to sleep by a few passes, she was kept asleep nearly all day and night by her family mesmerising her whenever she had been awake spontaneously for a very short time; and had abundance of the sweetest repose without any narcotic, and only four doses of medicine were taken.* I was not then aware of the power of local mesmerism over inflammation, and therefore did not employ it. Her recovery was rapid, and the renewal

* See this little history in *The Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 91; April, 1844.

of her previous health after the illness astonished her; for she had long been subject to inflammatory attacks in the air passages and had always taken loads of medicine and been very slow in recruiting. I wonder whether if poor Mad. Plantin, who died of pleurisy some time after the painless removal of her breast by M. Cloquet in Paris,* had been well mesmerised day and night she would not have recovered. I dare say that she would. For the power of mesmerism, general and local, over inflammation, is great; and both should be employed in every case, though not to the omission of established means. In the venesection some blood had passed below the skin of my patient and given a bruised appearance. to remove which I begged them to rub her arm gently downwards. This little process, performed by her sister-in-law with that view, to their surprise made her arm rigid, and it was found that she could be thus made rigid all over. There was no exertion of will on the part of her sister-in-law, or of imagination on her own part, to produce this effect: it was purely mesmeric. She continued steadily to improve in health, the tumor became nearly free from pain, if not softer and smaller, till I left town in this autumn also. A medical friend kindly mesmerised her and two others for me. But on my return to England, I found her less strong, the pain had increased, and the tumor was larger and grown to the ribs. I presumed that she required much more daily mesmerism, and therefore arranged that she should come to me every morning at ten, as I could now send her off by one pass or even a steady look for a few seconds, and should sleep till I left home at one or two o'clock: and that, on retiring to bed, her family should send her into mesmeric sleep, and also make slow passes with contact upon her bosom. The effect of this abundant mesmerism was soon apparent. She is now heartier than she had been for *twelve* years—ever since the fatal influenza of 1834, from which she suffered and from the debility of which she had never recovered. She has regained her appetite and flesh and healthy looks, walks some miles vigorously every day, has no pain, and sleeps eight or ten hours uninterruptedly every night,—the mesmeric sleep produced on going to bed expending itself after two or three hours and passing into undisturbed ordinary sleep, as is shewn by her remembering in the mesmeric state the next morning at my house everything for the first few hours she was in bed, but, in the waking state, nothing of these first few hours. The same happens with my epileptic patient, Mary

* See my same Pamphlet, p. 78.

Ann, so often spoken of in previous numbers.* Her disease being very obstinate, she is now kept in the mesmeric state at my house as regularly and as long as the cancerous patient, and sent to sleep by her father on going to bed. I am sure that mesmerism often fails because patients are not sufficiently subjected to the process; or, when capable of being sent into the mesmeric sleep, are not in it sufficiently long. Some cures may require that patients should be in it the greater part of every day and night.

II. At Cherbourg, where was performed the painless amputation of Miss D'Albanel's leg, recorded in the last number of *The Zoist*, another but minor operation has been performed, and recorded in the *Phare de la Manche*.

Before I extract the account, I must mention that, as the Medical and Chirurgical Society had no record of the celebrated Nottinghamshire case which was read to them, having deprived themselves of the record in a fit of philosophy, I the other day directed to the society a printed copy of the original French history of the case of amputation, with a note to the president, who is at present Dr. Chambers, begging leave to present it, and presuming that it would be interesting to the society from being a complete parallel to the case by Mr. Topham and Mr. Ward, read to them three years ago. Dr. Ashburner, who is a Fellow of the society, was so obliging as to offer to convey the account and the note. He presented them at the meeting to the chairman of the evening,—to Dr. George Gregory, as it happened, whose wise remarks in a late lecture at St. Thomas's Hospital I employed as a motto in the last number (p. 512). Dr. Ashburner afterwards wrote to me, "You would have laughed at the ugly sneer that was made as it was handed to the secretary by the president." It is the usage of this society, as of all others, to acknowledge the receipt of every *present* with *thanks*. But I received *no thanks*, and an acknowledgment only, and that not of the printed account, of my *note*.

"53, Berners Street, Feb. 13, 1846.

"Sir,—I am directed by the president and council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society to acknowledge the receipt of your *letter* of the 27th January.

"I am, Sir,

"John Elliotson, M.D., &c. &c.

"Your obedient Servant,
"GEORGE CORSHAM, Hon. Sec."

I then wrote back that the note merely accompanied a pamphlet, and I trusted this had been received. The secretary replied that he thought acknowledging the note was acknowledging the pamphlet, as both were in one envelope!—as

* *Zoist*, Vol. II., pp. 216, 217; Vol. III., pp. 52, 68, 322, 361, 374, 465.

though when we receive a box of game and a note in it, we acknowledge the note but say not a word of the game. Was anything ever more farcical than this? I had been told by a physician that I was wrong in resigning, for that I could in time have prevailed upon the society to investigate mesmerism. My reply was, that mesmerism would be well investigated without them, and I was sure they would not attend to it till completely shamed. I took the present step to test them; really for a bit of fun; satisfied that they would behave absurdly: and they did to my heart's content, proving that I was right in my opinion of them, and that at the end of all this time they have the same disgraceful hostility to mesmerism as ever. The cause, however, of my resignation was not their hostility to the truths of mesmerism, but the immoral character of the hostility, as appears in the 62nd page of my pamphlet.*

Will it be believed that not only does this society, like all others, return thanks for any printed present to the library, however small,—I use the words of a gentleman who was long secretary to the society,—but has the following printed form for the purpose:—

“Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 53, Berners Street.

“Sir,—We are directed by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society to return you their thanks for your present of _____ which has been received and deposited in the Society's Library.

“We have the honor to be, Sir,

“Your obedient servants,

“To _____

Librarians.”

As the society would not allow it to remain on their minutes that they had passed the customary vote of thanks for the Nottinghamshire case of amputation, or even had it read at their meeting, so they would not allow it to be said that they had returned thanks for, *or even received*, the French case, or had “*deposited it in the society's library.*” They avoided *all mention* of it. Two Fellows asked for it six weeks

* As the antimesmeric doings of the society recorded in my pamphlet and those which I now record will form a striking point in the history of medicine, I give the list of the council of the society who directed the secretary to merely *acknowledge my letter.*

Dr. Chambers (President), F.R.S.

Dr. N. Arnott, F.R.S.

Mr. T. B. Curling,

B. G. Babington, F.R.S.

R. Dunn,

W. Baly,

Cæsar Hawkins,

T. A. Barker,

A. Nasmyth,

G. Burrows,

J. G. Perry,

G. Cursham,

B. Phillips, F.R.S.

J. Pareira, F.R.S.

S. Solly, F.R.S.

H. S. Roots,

E. Stanley, F.R.S.

R. B. Todd, F.R.S.

M. Ware.

T. Watson,

R. Welbank,

Those in italics figured on the former occasion.

after I had presented it, but the assistant-librarian, who delivers books, had never seen it and could tell nothing about it! I need not say, except to the enemies of mesmerism, that I desired no thanks for the piece of paper, but sent it to test the society's feelings.

To the Editor of the Phare de la Manche.

"Mr. Editor.—You, not long since, informed your readers of an operation rendered remarkably successful by means of mesmeric sleep; another, not less interesting, has now been performed. As many persons have expressed to me their desire of knowing all its details, I do myself the pleasure of communicating them to you.

"Miss A. L., 26 years of age, born at St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte, came to Cherbourg to be treated for a retraction of her fingers. Seven weeks previously she had twisted her foot in a fall, while her foot had to support her whole weight. Notwithstanding the usual means, her foot was very large; she had acute pain, and her nights were very restless.

"Before all this happened, she had frequently been thrown into the mesmeric sleep. With the view of lessening her sufferings, I employed that valuable resource. In a short time, *the size of the foot lessened, the pain was mitigated, and she passed her nights in refreshing sleep.* At the very first mesmerisation I produced perfect insensibility.

"Many days afterwards, owing to an unfortunate pre-disposition, the foot became contorted, the sole directed inwards, the internal edge hollowed, and the point turned towards the heel. No time was to be lost in remedying this increasing deformity. *Two* operations were performed in the waking state, and *the patient declared that the pain of them was extreme.*

"After some time the point of the foot lowered, the heel rose, and any degree of flexion was impossible. A third operation, much more painful than the two former ones, was necessary and without delay. On this occasion, in order to prevent all suffering and spare the patient useless terror, we decided upon her being mesmerised. The operation was fixed for Wednesday, the 10th of December, 1845, at five o'clock in the afternoon.

"At the appointed day and hour, Miss A. L. was mesmerised to sleep, not having been apprized of our further intentions: the insensibility was then examined in various ways, and, after it was found to be complete, the operator proceeded to cut through the tendon of Achilles. An open-

ing was made in the skin, about four centimetres above the heel and at the inner and back part of the leg.

"When the instrument *had* passed through the flesh, the patient began making a dull humming sound. Immediately many of the bystanders, who did not know that she habitually sang in her sleep-waking, fancied that this was an expression of pain: but gradually her voice became clearer, and the dullness of the first sounds was replaced by thrilling and loud singing.

"The operator stopped for an instant, and then passed the cutting instrument on between the skin and the tendon in order to cut it.

"During this second period her voice became more distinct, the measure was better observed, each modulation seemed performed with more skill. One would have said that the patient was becoming animated by her singing, and pleased with listening to herself, especially during the following words,—

'A mes malheurs venez mettre un terme,
Sauvez, Seigneur,' &c.

"A sudden rebound, occasioned by the section of the tendon, interrupted her singing all at once. As if she were aware that the operation was over, she exclaimed, '*Thanks, gentlemen, thanks, for the good you have done me. . . . Oh that I could tell you on my knees that I shall never forget your kindness!*'

"The *pulse*, noticed before and after the operation, underwent *no change* of frequency; *respiration* was continued so *calmly* that the *movements* of the chest were *scarcely perceptible*. A moment afterwards the foot was restored to its natural position, and kept in it by a suitable apparatus.

"Five minutes after the dressing, she was asked if she wished to be waked, and replied, '*I am too comfortable for that: let me sleep on.*'

"On waking she had *no knowledge* of what had passed; she smiled to her surgeon, and *found from the large number of persons around her that the operation must have been performed*. Being told that it was not, she was greatly distressed, and earnestly begged that it might be. One of the bystanders then informed her that all was over. On hearing this she was overjoyed, and gave way to her natural cheerfulness. She only regretted one thing—not having been mesmerised during the two previous operations.

"The next day, being curious to see the wound, she was *not* mesmerised before the dressing, and therefore suffered *severe pain* both during the whole of it and afterwards. On every following day she *was* mesmerised, and so had *no pain*.

"She suffered between every dressing; and, when the pain acquired a certain intensity, she was mesmerised and had *no pain*, even for a long while after she was awakened again.

"Nothing unfavourable occurred after the operation, and the parts will soon be healed.

"This operation was performed in the presence of eight witnesses (five of them medical), several of whom had never before seen the phenomena of mesmeric insensibility. All left perfectly satisfied of the advantage of mesmerism in surgical operations.

"I have the honor to be, &c.,

"Cherbourg, Dec. 18, 1845.

"A. DELENTE."*

What will Sir Benjamin Brodie say to this? Against the amputation performed in Nottinghamshire he childishly urged that the patient might have been by nature insusceptible of pain,† in the face of the fact that the poor man had suffered excruciating agony up to the moment of the operation.‡ The French young lady also suffered "acute pain," causing "very restless nights," and had undergone two operations on her foot already with "excessive pain." Others as foolishly and untruly declared that the man had been trained,§ and one said trained in order to become a great mesmeric card. The young lady had been so trained that the second operation in her waking state agonized her no less than the first, and admirably prepared her for the "*much more painful third*." The dressing on the day *after* the operation, being done in her waking state, caused her exquisite suffering. The mesmerism practised before any of the operations had, as in the Nottinghamshire patient|| and Mdle. D'Albanel, whose case is recorded in the last number, most beneficial effects. "In a short time the size of the foot lessened, the pain was mitigated, and she passed her nights in refreshing sleep." But Sir Benjamin Brodie cunningly passed all this over in his anxiety to prove that mesmerism did nothing and that the Nottinghamshire man was an impostor,¶ and so did every one else.**

Can a man be worthy of the name and not feel deeply on reading this history also? Will Sir Benjamin Brodie and

* The Director of the Military Hospital at Cherbourg, who sanctioned the operation on Miss D'Albanel.

† See my pamphlet, p. 36, 37.

‡ p. 7, 14.

§ p. 12, 19.

|| p. 6.

¶ p. 36.

** Mr. Coulson, for instance, who afterwards "confessed to me that he had never seen a mesmeric fact and was quite ignorant of mesmerism," told the society that "*the only point of interest* was the non-expression of pain, and that was a common thing, and he had no doubt the man *had been trained to it*." p. 12, 13, 14.

the other Fellows of the society still be unable to *distinguish* between *fortitude to bear pain* and *insensibility to it*? Neither he nor any of them seemed ever to have thought of the difference, or of the difference of the manifestation of the two, while, in the absence of all expression of fortitude and the presence of every sign of perfect freedom from suffering, they urged that the Nottinghamshire man was only a courageous, and a trained courageous, fellow,* common enough to meet with. Will the society still display their entire ignorance of the phenomena of sleep-waking, even when not induced by mesmerism, but idiopathic or spontaneous, and imagine, because this patient heard and answered questions and sang, that she was therefore sensible to mechanical injury? Dr. George Burrows, positively a teacher of the practice of medicine in the large metropolitan hospital of St. Bartholomew, and who therefore ought to have made himself acquainted with all the affections of the nervous system, catalepsy, somnambulism, &c., doubted the reality of the Nottinghamshire case because the man honestly said that he fancied he once heard something in his sleep,†—a kind of crunching, which no doubt was the sawing of his own thigh bone.‡ The most ordinary fact of sleep-waking is insensibility to mechanical injury with no impairment of hearing.§ Without sleep-waking, persons every day have no feeling in a palsied arm or leg and can hear perfectly well, and every day deaf people can feel very well. Poor Mr. Bransby Cooper, positively the teacher of anatomy, physiology, and surgery, in the large metropolitan hospital of Guy, displayed the same ignorance as Dr. George Burrows, and contended that if the man could not feel he could not hear,—“hearing and feeling,” said he, “are the same!”|| If the faint hearing of the crunching sound in the Nottinghamshire patient when he could not feel so puzzled these gentlemen, they must be completely at their wit’s end on reading that the French young lady sang a hymn while the operation was going on, tuning up very gradually from a faint humming till she was in full song.**

Like the other French young lady whose leg was amputated,¶ this patient was so bad a physiologist, so ignorant of the reflex motions, that she too omitted to move the other leg while the surgeon’s knife entered the diseased. When I think of the folly of Dr. Marshall Hall, and his followers,

* Pamphlet, p. 15, 16, 17, 18.

† p. 35.

‡ p. 10, 11.

§ See farther on, pp. 28, 33.

|| p. 55.

¶ *Zoist*, vol. III., p. 496.

** While correcting this sheet, I see the case noticed in the *London Medical Gazette*, Feb. 20, p. 351, and actually with the following remarks, illustrating all I have just said of the ignorance of the profession:—“That

Sir Benjamin Brodie, poor Mr. Wakley, Mr. Toswill, &c., in assuring us that, when a person can feel nothing and one leg is wounded, the other and the other only ought to hurt, I can scarcely credit their absurdity.*

There is much to be regretted in the treatment of this case also by these enlightened gentlemen, owing no doubt to their not being habituated to the employment of mesmerism. When the cure of Miss Collins's† foot and Miss Critchley's fingers, and the other local cures, recorded in the two last numbers, are remembered, it is impossible not to consider whether the retraction of the French female's fingers might not have been cured by mesmerism, general and local, sedulously employed; especially as the mesmerism which was practised reduced the size of the foot and lessened the pain. Her susceptibility was such that mesmerism had frequently been employed to lessen her suffering, and I should say that, as she was so readily sent to sleep, she ought to have been kept asleep continually, in order to reduce her suffering to the lowest point: and in this sleep abundant local mesmerism would have told even more than in her ordinary state.

The two first operations ought not to have been performed in her ordinary state: they might and should have been performed in her sleep and rendered painless. It is distressing to read that "*the pain of them was extreme.*"

The first dressing should have been done in her sleep: if it was thought right to gratify her silly wish of seeing the wound, all the dressing should have been removed in her

a person should be able to resist the expression of pain, during the performance of this or even of a more severe operation, is nothing wonderful; but the *singing* is a new feature of the remarkable mystery known under the name of animal magnetism; and on the part of a female, it may be regarded as a very delicate way of shewing gratitude to the operator! Unfortunately for the credit of the story, it rests upon the authority of a notorious mesmeric journal."—This, I presume, is the *Journal du Magnétisme*.

* Pamphlet, p. 19, &c., 22, 50. *Zoist*, vol. II., p. 425. Mr. Toswill says that Dr. M. Hall "*withdrew* his allegiance to mesmerism," because the sound leg of the man in Nottinghamshire did not start while the other was cutting off. Why Dr. M. H. never had an allegiance to mesmerism to withdraw. Mr. Toswill ridiculously considers him "perhaps the greatest living authority on the functions of the nervous system:" whereas he is no authority at all,—never made a discovery, is a scoffer at all Gall's discoveries, and has not written a true opinion upon reflex movements that had not been written before he was born, and even the word reflex had been thus applied by Prochaska in 1784. He never once mentions the name of Dr. Prochaska or Sir Gilbert Blane in his communication to the Royal Society announcing his pretended discoveries, so that I repeat what I said in my pamphlet, that it is worth considering "which was the greater, Dr. Hall's boldness in sending the paper, or the council's in printing it." His false claims and preposterous comparisons of himself to Harvey may be seen in my Pamphlet, p. 24, &c.

† Miss Collins writes that she has just kept her birth-day in perfect health, for the first time these ten years.

sleep, and then she should have been awakened for an instant to see the wound and sent off again. She ought to have been continually mesmerised at this period, generally or locally, or both ways, and not allowed to suffer between every dressing. Mesmerisation should not have always been delayed till "the pain had acquired a certain degree of intensity." I am sure that with more practice in such cases the medical attendants will agree with me.

I cannot proceed to the next cases without directing the attention of my readers to the striking circumstance that these two French operations have not been performed in Paris, but in a distant province. In Paris, Madame Plantin's breast was removed by M. Jules Cloquet, seventeen years ago, and so satisfactory were the facts that the French Academy of Medicine thus reported upon it. "The committee sees in this case *the most evident proof* of the suspension of sensibility during sleep-waking, and declares that, though it did not witness the case, they find it so *stamped with the character of truth*, it has been attested and reported to them by so good an observer who had communicated it to the surgical section, that they do not fear to present it to you as *a most unquestionable proof* of the state of torpor and stupefaction produced by mesmerism."* Yet amid the abundance of surgical operations performed there and in the great cities of Lyons, Strasburg, &c., daily ever since, not a single attempt that I have heard of has been made to turn mesmerism to the same blessed account—no recollection seems to have existed of the astounding and all important fact with all their great hospitals and everlasting teaching of young men. Even M. Cloquet the operator has been totally lost to it: and been operating for his bread without bestowing one thought upon what he witnessed and was a party to. Of a truth human nature is in many particulars a most sorry nature. The total indifference of the medical profession to facts most astounding in medical science and most important in medical and surgical treatment of disease shows how much of the savage still remains in what is incorrectly considered civilized man. The stupid indifference of nineteen out of twenty of the profession to the profound character and the mighty importance of the phenomena of mesmerism, even when prevailed upon by me to witness them, and their looking at the phenomena as merely strange, amusing, and funny,† if perchance they do

* Foissac's *Rapports et Discussions*, &c., p. 400. It is related as perfectly genuine in our *Penny Cyclopædia*, article *Somnambulism*.

† A surgeon in Leicester who makes thousands a year, witnessed some mesmeric phenomena, and all he afterwards said of them was that they were "very funny." *Zoist*, vol. I., p. 326.

not regard them as sheer imposition, is precisely what occurs among savages who are shewn our arts or a demonstration of our scientific discoveries. Captain Parry tells us that among the Esquimaux was a woman of superior intellect called Iliglink, who absolutely put all the men to shame, as the Lady Mary does to whom we owe the first great surgical operation, the first amputation, in this country, and as the Lady Mary did who forced inoculation upon the English doctors of the last century.

"Of all the wonders they had ever witnessed on board, the welding of two pieces of iron especially excited their admiration, and I never saw Iliglink express so much astonishment at anything before. Even in this her superior good sense was observable, for it was evident that the utility of what she saw going on, was what forced itself upon her mind; and she watched every stroke of the hammer, and each blast of the bellows, with extreme eagerness, while numbers of other Esquimaux looked stupidly on, without expressing the smallest curiosity or interest in the operation, except by desiring to have some spear heads fashioned out by this means."

How this reminds me of Mr. Wakley, Mr. Liston, Mr. Quain, Dr. A. T. Thomson, and Dr. Sharpey, beholding the exquisite mesmeric phenomena of the two Okeys and my other patients of University College Hospital. It was the four last of these who got up all the opposition to mesmerism at University College; Dr. Sharpey and Mr. Quain being the most active, but in the slyest manner, doing their utmost in privacy with individual members of the council. Those three honest men, Drs. Grant and Lindley and Mr. S. Cooper, took no part in the opposition. The two former have since been more than once to my house to witness mesmerism, such is their interest in it: and the latter wrote to me a month ago that he had always greatly deplored my leaving the college.

Medical men write ardently and carry on fierce controversies about matters important enough, for all science is important, but of infinitely less importance than mesmerism, and of a far lower order in physiology and practice, and never bestow a single thought upon it. They pique themselves upon, and wage war for, originality about the smallest mechanical improvements and the smallest discoveries that require only industrious eyes and no intellect; they make a mighty fuss about the poorest observations in disease and the poorest and most limited fresh method of treatment,—the very thing they make so much pother about ending after a longer or short period most frequently in nothing, proving erroneous, and becoming, like themselves and all their medical clatter, completely forgotten, to make room for successors like themselves.

Yes! sixteen years elapsed, as far as I know, before the great fact at Paris of Dr. Chapelain's production of painlessness under M. Cloquet's operation was imitated in France: and then it was imitated in a remote province. Not one of the great operations which have been performed in England has been performed in London, or our other cities, where there are schools, great hospitals, and redoubtable surgeons. The first amputation was performed in the village of Wellow, at a hospital supported by a few wealthy families, and possessing but twelve beds;—the others at the watering place of Torquay; in the country town of Leicester, a place of no medical or surgical reputation; and at some place called Alyth, in Perthshire, not in Edinburgh or Glasgow: and all these by men whom Sir Benjamin Brodie, Mr. Keate, Mr. Key, and the rest of our metropolitan surgeons regard as humble and obscure individuals. Indeed no surgical operation beyond extraction of teeth, the introduction of setons, and bleeding, has yet been performed in London, Edinburgh, or any other British city; and these have been performed at the instance of the few known individuals who have subjected themselves to the persecution of the medical profession. The other amputations, removal of tumors, &c., have been performed in our colonies, eastern and western, or in the country which was our colony till nobly wrested from our unjust domination. This is a sad tale to tell.

III. Amputations, removal of Tumors, &c. &c., in the East Indies.

Several painless surgical operations, besides those recorded in the last number of *The Zoist*, have been performed in India by Dr. Esdaile. I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Ashburner for the loan of a pamphlet published at Calcutta by Dr. Esdaile, under the same title as his paper in the *India Journal of Medical and Physical Science*, containing all his mesmeric practice up to the end of August. What appeared in *The Zoist* constituted his second report, and extended from April 9th to May 14th. I now lay before your readers a previous report and three subsequent ones.

The following are the remarks with which his first report are preceded:—

"I rather choose to endure the wounds of those darts which envy casteth at novelty, than to go on safely and sleepily in the easy ways of ancient mistakings."—RALPH.

"To the Editor of the *India Journal of Medical and Physical Science*."

"Sir,—I hope that the time has at last arrived when a man, under his own name, may address the public seriously on the sub-

ject of mesmerism, and declare his belief in it, without a cry of 'mad dog!' being raised against him. A member of the medical profession, and a public servant of the Government, may expect to be patiently listened to when he relates the facts that have come under his own observation regarding mesmerism; especially when he pledges his private and professional character (as I hereby do) for the absolute truth of his statements. A writer has a right to expect, that under such circumstances his reported facts will not be at once rejected as incredible and worthless; it will be time enough for this when they are contradicted, or when dishonesty in any of the parties concerned shall have been detected, or the reporter proved to be a credulous simple fool, though perhaps honest. But I confess that I expect a liberal tone of mind from the Indian public, for I believe it to possess an impartiality of judgment, and a capacity for receiving new ideas, to be met with in few communities, and it is not difficult to explain why this should be so. Relying then on my own good faith, and the liberal construction of my readers, I will proceed to relate the mesmeric facts I have lately witnessed. Before doing so, I may perhaps be excused the egotism of giving a short sketch of the history of my belief in mesmerism, as it is a remarkable epoch in a man's life the day he discovers that he has the temporary power of life and death over his fellow-creatures.

"Ever since Dr. Elliotson declared, years ago, 'that he should despise himself if he did not declare his conviction of the truth of mesmerism,' I ceased to regard it lightly, and paid attention to all well-attested reports upon the subject; at last the facts became so numerous, and were so well supported by credible witnesses, and kept their ground so firmly both against adverse reasoning and ridicule (the test of truth), that I felt compelled to surrender my belief in the existence of the unknown power, or cease to be a reasoning and judging being. Ten days before making my first experiment, I thus wrote to a friend at home: 'What think you of this new mystery, mesmerism? For my part I am thinking seriously about it, and cannot help suspecting that we have hit upon one of nature's great secrets. I keep myself perfectly neutral, and hear the evidence *pro* and *con*. If it turns out a delusion, I will be happy to assist in digging its grave.'

"The uniformity of the phenomena described by different persons and coming from various parts of the world, strongly arrested my attention, and impressed me with the conviction that some new general law of nature had been discovered. England, France, Germany and America, all combined to give the same evidence in support of the new doctrines, or rather new phenomena of nature."

I hope that no accusation of vanity will be made against me for expressing the comfort I derive from the second paragraph of this quotation. It is a satisfaction to receive credit for truth, carefulness, and industry from an able and modest, an honest and undaunted man, after being for eight long years suddenly treated by the profession of Great Britain

and Ireland as a madman or impostor, and injured in every possible way by those who before professed to regard me as a very careful observer and faithful narrator. This is my complaint against the profession, not that they hesitated to believe, but that—the facts being of the utmost importance scientifically and practically, and vouched for by me who had never led them into error, never advanced anything hastily, or for display, or for catching practice, nor anything that was not ultimately found true—they have not for eight long years condescended to ascertain whether the statements of mesmerism be true, but unceremoniously scouted them, crying out, like the rabid Jews of old, “Not this man, but Barabbas”—that is, Not nature, not truth, not humanity, but imperfection, ignorance, error, and inhumanity.

Dr. Esdaile commences his fifth report with similar remarks, redounding greatly to his character.

“The enquiry of truth, which is the love-making, or wooing of it; and the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it; and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it; is the sovereign good of human nature.”—BACON’S ESSAYS.

“In communicating my first mesmeric successes to my friend, Dr. Grant, now in England, I wrote thus: ‘I now know mesmerism to be true, and *should think myself a poor cowardly creeper if I did not declare it.*’

“Apart from the personal gratification of being admitted to see the secret processes of nature’s work-shop, and the advantages of being able to imitate them successfully for the alleviation and removal of human suffering; it is a sufficient satisfaction to me to be able, from personal observation, to give my evidence in support of the truths discovered, and declared by honest and independent men in different parts of the world, both living and dead.

“If my labours should assist in raising the dishonoured dead into the public consideration and respect which is their due, and excite a regret that ‘wisdom called aloud in the streets, and no one regarded her,’ or if my proceedings should strengthen the testimony of the living witnesses who have been persecuted for the truth, and hasten their tardy reward, I shall not have laboured in vain.

“I now know (and deplore my long ignorance) that the battle was fought and won before I was born, by the truthful and benevolent Deleuze, Puysegur, and their associates, and I am only repeating upon the Hooghly, what they, and their worthy successor Elliotson, had long ago established on the banks of the Seine and Thames; thereby proving the universality of the truths propounded by them. While France issued royal and academic commissions to investigate the matter, and her literature abounds with works written by medical and scientific men on the subject; and Prussia very properly prohibited it from being practised except by medical men; and Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Russia, have been familiar, for the last thirty years, with both the good and evil of mes-

merism; we, in consequence of our insular ignorance, pride and presumption, are now only hearing of what the whole civilized world has long known, and condescending to give an unwilling attention to well-established natural phenomena, which are as much part of the human constitution as the processes of thought and digestion.

"All I have done, or may hereafter do, has been done, and shall be done, in the face of day; and every case hitherto related has had from six to fifty native witnesses, having been treated in two public hospitals. The patients are on the spot, or may easily be found, and a host of witnesses are ready for any one who may take the trouble to investigate the matter on the spot. And I hope it will be remembered, that I am no longer the only mesmeriser here, but have four assistants, who sometimes succeed when I fail, and who enable me to do more good than I could do unaided; and *it is now a matter of course to attempt to make a person insensible before operating on him. I consider it cruelty in fact not to do so.*"

Let the president, council, fellows, and all other dignitaries, if there be any, of the College of Surgeons, read this and blush.

Dr. Esdaile's first trial is thus ushered in :—

"In choosing a proper subject to experiment upon, I should probably have selected some highly sensitive female of a nervous temperament and excitable imagination, who desired to submit and succumb to the supposed influence. But I beg it to be particularly remarked, that my first essay was not guided by theory; and was not made on any such favourable subject. On the contrary, the very worst specimen of humanity, theoretically considered, was the person experimented upon; *being no other than a Hindu felon of the hangman caste, condemned to hard labour on the roads in irons. Accident alone determined my choice, for I should as soon have thought of operating on the first dog or pig on the road, as of selecting this man for his good 'materiel';—chance decided the matter perhaps much better than reasoning would have done.*

"There are some particular points of interest in this case, to which I beg to attract attention.

"1st. The purely accidental and unpremeditated nature of the experiment.

"2nd. All want of consent between the parties.

"3rd. The operator's want of belief in his own powers.

"4th. The absolute ignorance of the subject in the patient.

"5th. The impossibility therefore of his imitating so exactly the phenomena of mesmeric coma.

"6th. Collusion, it will be allowed, I presume, could not possibly exist between the agent and subject, and every possible care has been taken to exclude any source of fallacy in the experiments.

"European gentlemen, sceptical and critical, or so strong in disbelief that they would reason themselves out of the evidence of their senses, if they could; ignorant Hindus and Mussulmans, who simply used their eyes and ears without an attempt at reflection, will all be

found by their separate and independent reports bearing testimony to the same series of phenomena.

"As I may never succeed again, possibly, and at all events cannot afford the physical exhaustion of subduing new patients in the hot weather, I have endeavoured to make this case as perfect as possible in all its parts, by bringing the senses of different people to bear upon it in all its stages; and I must declare, that I cannot see any possible opening for mistake or deception. I may hope to be able to retain my power over this person, and shall be happy to have any source of error pointed out to me, that it may be guarded against in future.

"To those who may desire to test the truth for themselves by their own powers, I would venture to suggest that an earnest desire to know the truth, a fixed attention, and a resolution to subdue interposing difficulties, are essential conditions of mind for the operator, as the means of concentrating and keeping up the continued action of the vital agent, whatever it may be. All after-dinner and joking experiments are therefore likely to fail, and ought not to be practised either by those who desire to see the truth with their own eyes, or by those who have seen it and believe.

"My profound impression is, that the first effects are produced by a purely physical influence exerted by one animal over another, but I can hardly doubt that it extends also to the mind, for the mental phenomena (though more subject to suspicion) are as numerously attested as the bodily. In the present case no mental phenomena can be reasonably expected, for the individual is only one (?) degree above the brutes, and if his mind can be acted upon, I suspect it must be by some one who has more sympathy with his mental constitution."

Let those who make one sick with their foppish and contemptible remarks about females, delicate females, and hysterical females, anticipation, preparation, habit, and collusion, read the preceding passage over a second time.

"Mádhav Kaurá, a hog-dealer, condemned to seven years' imprisonment with labour on the roads in irons, for wounding a man so as to endanger his life, has got a hydrocele duplex (a double local dropsy). He was ordered to be taken from the jail to the charity hospital, to be operated upon.

"April 4th.—The fluid was drawn off one side, and two drachms of the usual corrosive sublimate injection were thrown in. On feeling the pain from the injection, he threw his head over the back of the chair, and pressed his hands along the course of the spermatic cords, closing his eye-lids firmly, and making the grimaces of a man in pain. Seeing him suffering in this way, I turned to the native sub-assistant surgeon, an 'élève' of the medical college, and asked him if he had ever

seen mesmerism? He said, that he had seen it tried at the medical college, but without effect. Upon which I remarked, I have a great mind to try it on this man; but as I never saw it practised, and know it only from reading, I shall probably not succeed. The man continuing in the position described, I placed his knees between mine, and began to pass my hands slowly over his face, at the distance of an inch, and carried them down to the pit of his stomach. This was continued for half an hour before he was spoken to; and when questioned at the end of this time, his answers were quite sensible and coherent.

"He was ordered to remain quiet, and the passes were continued for a quarter of an hour longer—still no sensible effect. Being now tired, (thermometer 85° .) I gave it up in despair, and declared it to be a failure. While I rested myself, the man remained quiet, and made fewer grimaces, and when ordered to open his eyes, he said there was a smoke in the room. This roused my attention, and tempted me to persevere. I now breathed on his head, and carried my hands from the back of his head over his face, and down to the epigastrium, where I pressed them united. The first time this was done, he took his hands off his groins and pressed them both firmly down upon mine, drew a long breath, and said, 'I was his father and mother, and had given him life again.' The same process was persevered in, and in about an hour he began to gape, said he must sleep, that his senses were gone, and his replies became incoherent. He opened his eyes when ordered, but said he only saw smoke, and could distinguish no one: his eyes were quite lustreless, and the lids were opened heavily. All appearance of pain now disappeared; his hands were crossed on his breast instead of being pressed on the groins, and his countenance showed the most perfect repose. He took no notice of our questions, and I called loudly on him by name without attracting any notice.

"I pinched him without disturbing him, and then asking for a pin in English, I desired my assistant to watch him narrowly, and drove it into the small of his back; *it produced no effect whatever*, and my assistant repeated it, at intervals, in different places as uselessly. His back had continued to arch more backwards latterly, and he now was in a state of '*opisthotonos*;' *the nape of his neck resting on the sharp back of the chair, and his breech on the edge of it*. Being now satisfied that we had got something extraordinary, I went over to the Kutcherry, and begged Mr. Russell the judge, and Mr. Money the collector, to come and see what had been done, as I wanted the presence of intelligent witnesses in

what remained to do. We found him in the position I had left him in, and no hallooing in his ears could attract his attention. *Fire was then applied to his knee without his shrink in the least, and liquor ammonia, that brought tears into our eyes in a moment, was inhaled for some minutes with perfect composure and without causing an eyelid to quiver.* This seemed to have revived him a little, as he moved his head shortly afterwards, and I asked him if he wanted to drink; he only gaped in reply, and I took the opportunity to give him slowly a mixture of ammonia, *so strong that I could not bear to taste it: this he drank like milk, and gaped for more.* As the 'experimentum crucis,' I lifted his head, and placed his face, which was directed to the ceiling all this time, *in front of a full light*; opened his eyes one after the other, but *without producing any effect upon the iris*: his eyes were exactly like an amaurotic person's, and all noticed their lacklustre appearance. We were all now convinced that total insensibility of all the senses existed, and I ordered him to be placed on a mattress on the floor, and not to be disturbed till I returned. It was now 1 o'clock, the process having commenced at 11 a.m.

"I returned at 3 o'clock, and was vexed to find that he had awoke, and been carried back to the Jail Hospital. The native doctor of the jail had come in, and on hearing that the Sábibs could not awake the patient, he set about doing so, and succeeded by throwing water on his face, &c. I again went to Messrs. Russell and Money, and requested them to accompany me to the jail to be present when he was interrogated regarding his reminiscences, and we put down a series of questions to put to him at once, and without explanation. We found him looking well, with a lively expression of face, and the following questions were put to him; his answers being taken down at the same time.

"How do you feel?

"Very well.

"Any pain in the throat, or elsewhere?

"A little uneasiness in the throat; no pain anywhere else.

"What has happened to you to-day?

"I went in the morning to the Imambarah Hospital to get the water taken out of my swelling.

"Was the water drawn off?

"Yes.

"What do you remember after the operation?

"I went to sleep soon after, and remember nothing else.

"Did you eat or drink after the operation?

" I felt thirsty, but got nothing to drink till Kurreem Ali (the native doctor) awoke me.

" Did any body prick, or burn you ?

" No, no.

" Did you smell anything disagreeable ?

" No.

" Were you happy when asleep ?

" Very.

" Did you hear anything when you were asleep ?

" *I heard voices*, but did not understand them.

" Did you see any gentleman in the hospital, but me ?

" No.

" Did you feel any pain in the part after going to sleep ?

" I felt none till I awoke.

" Any pain in that part now ?

" A very little.

" How many actions have you had to-day ? (he was suffering from chronic diarrhœa.) Four, before going to the hospital ; none since : *belly is much easier than it has been for some time.*

" Having answered all these questions readily and frankly, he began to cry, thinking it was some kind of judicial investigation, I suppose.

" The above is an exact relation of what took place in our presence, and we are thoroughly convinced that there was a complete suspension of sensibility to external impressions of the most painful kind.

" F. W. RUSSELL,

" D. J. MONEY,

" BUDDEN CHUNDER CHOWDAREE,

" *Sub-Assistant Surgeon.*

" April 5th.—There is less than the usual inflammation, and he makes no complaint. I intend to operate on the other side in a few days, mesmerising him first, if possible, and have invited many persons to be present.

" April 6th, 11 o'clock, a.m.—The inflammation has become high during last night : the part is hot, and excessively tender ; the lightest touch causes great pain. Skin hot. Pulse quick. I could not resist the temptation to satisfy myself still further, and relieve him at the same time ; so turning to the native doctors, I said that I would again try the ' Belatee Muntur' (the Europe charm), and began the

process as before, he lying in bed. In ten minutes the mesmeric haze, smoke he always calls it, was produced. After half an hour, he still complained of the pain in the inflamed part, and *could not bear its being touched*; in three-quarters of an hour the coma was established, and I *squeezed the inflamed part with no more effect than if it had been a bladder*. Having business to attend to in Chandernagore, six miles off, I called, in passing, on the Rev. Mr. Fisher, and said that he might now satisfy himself by going to the hospital in my absence, and that he was at liberty to use every possible means to awake him, or make him feel, except mesmeric ones. Here I have the pleasure to introduce a report of the proceedings of Mr. Fisher and Mr. Money while I was at Chandernagore :—

“ To J. Esdaile, Esq.

“ My dear Sir,—I beg to certify that I twice saw the native whom you had put into a mesmeric trance or state of catalepsy; and, from the successful application of different tests, I have no hesitation in stating, should my statement add any weight to your own testimony, or be of any service to the cause of the imperfectly known and hitherto unfairly treated science of mesmerism, that the individual in question was in that state *entirely insensible of pain, and that I believe, if you had cut his leg off, he would not have felt it*. I saw, when I was in England, both publicly and in private, many cases of mesmerism accompanied by unnatural and wonderful phenomena, without being convinced. But your case is one so free from all possibility of suspicion, that to have doubted it one might as well have doubted one's own existence.

“ Yours truly,

“ Hooghly, 9th April, 1845.

“ D. J. MONEY.

“ I have only to add to the above, that I was present upon the last occasion referred to by Mr. Money, and fully concur with him in thinking that the patient, during the mesmeric trance, was *totally insensible to pain*. Indeed, all the senses appeared to be unnaturally suspended from any manifestation of their ordinary operations, and every available test was tried in vain. Dr. Esdaile upon this occasion was absent at Chandernagore, having previously put the patient into the trance.

“ F. FISHER.

“ Returned to the hospital at 3 o'clock, and found him lying just as I had left him. Awoke him in a few minutes by

rapid transverse passes, blowing in his face, and giving water to drink. Is free of pain, and still desires to sleep; says his head 'turns.'

"Translation of a Report from Kureem Ali Khan, native doctor, of what he saw and heard in the Jail Hospital, on the 6th April, 1845."

"At 11 o'clock, a.m., the patient, Mádhab Kaurá, was in a fever, and there was an acute pain in the part. The worthy Dr. Sáhib (may he ever prosper) came to the hospital, and began to do something to him. When the experiment was going on, Mádhab was asked, What do you see?

"I cannot see clearly; something like smoke is before my eyes.

"Do you see the doors?

"No, nothing but smoke.

"Do you see Dr. Sáhib?

"No, I see nobody, but perceive some one is talking near me.

"Is there any pain in your body?

"Yes, breathing causes pain in the belly.

"Is there pain in the part?

"Yes, *as acute as ever*.

"How do you feel now?

"I feel cold, and sleepy.

"After the Doctor Sáhib had tried for nearly three-quarters of an hour, he fell into a deep sleep, and there seemed to be *no pain in the part*: he slept so sound that even the pricking of his body with a pin did not restore his senses, or awake him. Before, *a touch of the part was painful*, but after he was asleep, even *pricking it caused no pain whatever*.

"He continued in this state for three hours, when the Doctor Sáhib calling him aloud twice, or thrice, he came to his senses, and opened his eyes. He asked for water, which he drank; and feeling cold, covered himself."

"Translation of a Report from Noboo, native doctor, of what he saw and heard in the Jail Hospital, on the 6th April, 1845."

"On the morning of the 6th April, I went to the hospital, and found the body of Mádhab Kaurá hot and feverish, and he felt a great pain in the part.

"At 11 o'clock, Dr. Esdaile, the civil doctor, came and made some operations on the body: something I do not know. While the operation was going on, the patient was

asked if he could see plainly ; but said, No. When asked if he could see any one, he answered, that he could see no one, but knew by the sounds that some people were there.

“ ‘ Again he was asked if he felt any pain ; he said, that he felt a severe pain in the belly, on breathing, and also in the part, and felt very cold. Soon afterwards, he became senseless.

“ ‘ At 2 o’clock, p.m., the Rev. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Money came to the hospital, and tried to bring him to his senses by pricking him with a pin, putting fire on his hand, and beating a gong at his ear, but all proved ineffectual.’

“ I forgot to note down what these reports notice—his complaining of feeling cold soon after the process began ; and when I left him the temperature of his body was natural.

“ On these two occasions, the effects were witnessed by all the patients and hangers on in and about both hospitals.

“ April 7th.—Has had a good night ; is a little feverish ; pain in part much less. He now complains, for the first time, of pain in the places where he was pricked and burned.

“ *This makes one ashamed of one’s incredulity*, and I will never put a patient to the ‘ question’ in this way again. It is only excusable for the first time when we can hardly believe the evidence of our senses. Whenever the mesmeric haze is produced, the operator may be sure that he has obtained the specific effect, and the insensibility of the pupil will incontrovertibly prove the presence of mesmeric coma.

“ April 11th.—Took the sub-assistant surgeon with me to-day to the jail hospital, and desired him to watch the time taken to produce the different effects. There is still considerable pain in the side operated upon. Pulse regular, 60. Skin warm. At 11 a.m., I seated him on the floor with his back against the wall ; placed myself before him on a stool, and proceeded pretty much as before. The process, in one particular, was varied ; I leaned my elbows upon my knees, placed my mouth over the back of my joined hands, and breathed along their upper surface, the points of my fingers being pointed steadily at his eyes, nose, and forehead in succession. This seemed to be very effectual, and was done with the idea of concentrating the mesmeric influence of the whole body into one conductor. It was curious to observe that he had begun to think on the subject, and was observing the effects for himself, and testing his senses as we proceeded. After manipulating for a few minutes, he opened his eyes, looked sharply and minutely about him, and being asked if

he saw quite well, he said, 'Oh yes.' In a minute or two, he repeated his inspection, and answered again, that he saw quite distinctly: in seven minutes he again looked about him, seemed surprised, and said he only saw 'smoke.'

"In fifteen minutes he was *pinched*; and when asked if any one was pinching him, he replied, that he *could not tell*, as I might now *cut a piece out of his body without his feeling it*. I now tried for an abnormal mental manifestation; certainly not expecting to be gratified. I asked, What will cure your complaint? You know best. Has the Baboo any complaint? How should I know! I understood this as a hint to attend to the business in hand, the body, and therefore proceeded to induce the mesmeric coma as quickly as possible, and succeeded in twenty minutes from the commencement. I then said to the sub-assistant surgeon that I would operate upon him in this state if I could find some of the European gentlemen to be witnesses. On going to Chinsurah, two miles off, I fortunately found a considerable party, consisting of the Baron Law de Clapernou, Governor of Chandernagore, Mr Russell the Judge, Mr. Wauchope the Magistrate, J. St. Pourçain, Esq., Mr. Clint, Principal of Hooghly College, and Mr. Clermont, head Master of the Lower School, who all accompanied me back to the hospital. The man had *fallen down, and was lying on his back*. The *large gong* of the jail was brought, and *struck violently within a few inches of his ear with no effect*. I then *pierced the part*, and threw in the injection *without any one being sensible of the smallest movement in his face, or body*. His limbs were *quite flexible*, but on holding one of his legs in my hand for a few seconds, it gradually became *quite rigid*, and we could not bend it again; the same occurred in the other leg. The arms were supple, and lay in any position into which they were thrown, and when the fore-arm was bent upon the humerus, and then let go, it fell upwards, or downwards instantly. But on placing my united fingers over the ends of his, the *arm remained fixed at a right angle in the air, and swayed to and fro according to my movements*. The *insensibility of the iris* was also tested, and *proved*.

"6 o'clock, a.m.—Still sleeps; most complete relaxation of all the limbs now exists. The legs and arms can be tossed about in every direction, and where they fall there they lie. Being curious to ascertain the effect of the artificial state on the natural process of inflammation, I did not awake him, but saw that the part was as flaccid as when the water was just withdrawn.

"April 12th.—He awoke at 12 o'clock last night sponta-

neously. Recollects nothing after going to sleep; sees the water is gone, knows not how; supposes the Doctor Sáhib did it. *Admodum tumet hodie testis*; there is little pain, and it did not swell till after he awoke. He has had *chronic diarrhœa* for some time, four and five motions a day, but has had none since yesterday forenoon till this morning. *Natural, artificial, and diseased actions have therefore been all equally arrested for the last thirteen hours; a practical fact of the utmost importance, which will not be lost sight of by myself, or others, I hope.* What a blessed prospect this opens to sufferers who may be sensible to the mesmeric influence! In time we may hope to discover who they are, by detecting the laws which regulate this power of nature, and thereby save ourselves much trouble and disappointment. In the meantime, let us accumulate *facts*, as the seeds for a correct theory hereafter. Although I should never succeed again, I will in future think, speak, and write of mesmerism as being as much a reality as the principle of gravitation, or the properties of opium."

The members of the London Medical and Chirurgical Society who could not imagine the possibility of a man with palsy of his nerves of common sensation hearing ever so obscurely, should read over again the hog dealer's answer—"I heard voices but did not understand them:" the Nottinghamshire man's answer was, "I once felt as if I heard a kind of crunching."* They both in the natural state had a faint degree of memory of the mesmeric. A change took place in the mesmeric state of the Asiatic, for on April the 12th on awaking spontaneously he recollected nothing. Those who fancy mesmerism to be useful in nervous diseases only, should remember its effect upon the diarrhœa and the pain of stomach. And those who prefer a stupid and dogged disbelief to the clearest evidence of the senses and yet cannot bring themselves to obey the Scriptures and pluck out their deceiving eye or cut off their deceiving hand, with which they ought to be offended, should imitate Dr. Esdaile and become "ashamed of their incredulity." The nature and truthfulness of the man's answers at pp. 27, 28, 30, are striking.

Mr. Bransby Cooper, who in the Medical Society strangely at the time he ridiculed the alleged facts as humbug begged for a rationale of them, might read the last sentence but one of the last quoted paragraph: and the medical profession at large may rest assured that all we mesmerists have the determination expressed by Dr. Esdaile in the concluding sentence.

* Pamphlet, p. 10.

Amputation of a thumb.—"May 29th. Sibchurn Sing, a young robust man, had his thumb-nail nearly cut through by a sword, fourteen days ago. An attempt was made to unite it, but failed; and the point of the finger would be a source of annoyance, if kept. In ten minutes I made him insensible, and cut off the end of his thumb without awaking him. He shortly after opened his eyes, and I asked him; Have you been asleep? Yes. Have you any pain? No. Has anybody hurt you to-day? No. Do you wish your nail cut off? Yes. Look at it. He did so; looked confounded, and exclaimed, It's gone! Who did it? God knows. How did it happen? I know nothing about it. Has it fallen off itself? I can't tell."

Removal of a tumor frightfully disfiguring the face.—"June 3rd. Teencowrie Paulit, a peasant; aged 40. He began to suffer from a tumor, two years ago, in the antrum maxillare. The tumor has pushed up the orbit and eye of that side, filled up and distorted the nose, and caused an extraordinary enlargement of the glands of the neck.

"I was very desirous to reduce him to a state of insensibility before operating on him, and for the last fortnight my assistants have all tried it perseveringly, but without producing sleep even. I took him in hand, at 10 o'clock a.m. to-day, and succeeded after great labour, for three quarters of an hour, in entrancing him sitting erect in a chair. *I then put a long knife in at the corner of his mouth, and brought it through his cheek over the cheek-bone, dividing the parts between; from this, I pushed it through the skin at the inner corner of the eye, and dissected back the cheek to the nose.*

"The pressure of the tumor had caused the absorption of the anterior wall of the antrum, and on pushing my fingers between it and the bones, it burst, and proved to be a medullary tumor. A shocking gush of blood and brain-like matter followed. It extended as far as the points of my fingers could reach under the orbit and cheek-bone, and passed into the throat, having destroyed the bones and partition of the nose.

"No one held the man, and I turned his head into any position desired, without resistance, and there it remained till again moved. The man never stirred or shewed any signs of life, except an indistinct occasional moan, till I passed my fingers into his throat, and directed the blood into his wind-pipe.

"Farther insensibility was incompatible with life apparently, for he coughed and leaned forward to get rid of the

blood. The operation was by this time finished, and he was laid on the floor to have the wounds dressed.

"June 4th. This is even a more wonderful affair than I supposed yesterday. The man declares by the most emphatic pantomime, that he felt no pain while in the chair, and that he first awoke upon the floor. So that his coughing, and forward movement yesterday, were purely instinctive motions for the preservation of life. He is wonderfully well.

"June 6th. The dressings were undone to-day, and the whole extent of the wounds in the face has *united completely* by the first intention. He is out of all danger from the operation, and can speak plainly; he declares most positively, that he felt no pain, and did not come to his senses till he awoke on the floor, and found me to be stitching his face, and *I presume he knows best.*

"Translation of a statement in Bengalee by Teencowrie Paulit.

"For two years I laboured under this sickness, and scarcely slept for five months. On the 19th May, I came to the Imambarah Hospital, and three or four persons tried to make me sleep, but all in vain. On the 3rd June, Dr. Esdaile having kindly undertaken my cure, with a great deal of labour, made me sleep, and having operated on my left cheek, took out something, which at that time I did not perceive. After the operation, I did not sleep for two days; but after the third day, I have slept as usual.

"TEENCOWRIE PAULIT,

"Of Madrah, Thannah Dhumakhaly."

Removals of colis and of præputia.—"June 11th. Kaloo, a faqueer, has an excrescence larger than a man's fist ad extremitatem colis, and the body of the organ is also much enlarged.

"He was entranced in a few minutes on the first trial; and in the presence of Major Riddell, Captain Anderson, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Jackson, I dissected out the organ, but was obliged to sacrifice the glans, as the enlargement was a cartilaginous degeneration of all the structures. I lost much time in trying to extricate the glans, but finding it impossible, performed amputation behind it, and the man did not awake till this point of the operation.

"Wonderful to say, he relapsed into the trance in a few minutes, and remained for *twenty minutes* quite rigid and insensible, with his eyes *wide open in a full light, and as insensible to the light as a corpse's*. This is the only case in which the eyes have been quite open during the trance, and the eyes would not remain shut when I closed them; shewing, I

conceive, the absolute extinction of muscular vitality. In most cases, the muscles of the eye-ball continue to act involuntarily after the rest of the muscular system has gone to rest; and on opening the eye-lids, the ball of the eye is seen rolling around the orbit like an agitated magnetic needle.

"Under the extreme influence of this agent, the muscles of the eye and iris also lose their contractility, and the eye remains as motionless and insensible to light as a dead man's.

"That the second trance was not a faint we all satisfied ourselves, not only from the continued rigidity of the limbs, but from the regular natural pulse."

"July 17th. To-day, in the presence of Mr. Davidson, Commissioner of the Division, and Mr. Alexander, Registrar to the Board of Revenue, who have requested me to name them as witnesses, I operated on a man for hypertropia præputii, *without disturbing him*. After letting him sleep some time, I asked the gentlemen if I should awake him, and at their desire did so, in a moment, by blowing in his eyes. He was restored at once to full consciousness, and Mr. Davidson remarked, 'I wish ——— was here, who says you do this by opium.'

"My visitors, knowing Bengalee, asked him, If any one had hurt him to-day? He answered, No. If he would like to have his disease removed? He said, that he would thank God if any one would do so. He was then desired to sit up, and his cloth removed; when seeing that his nuisance was gone, he fell back with an exclamation of wonder and gratitude."

"July 29th. In the presence of some sixty witnesses who came from Calcutta, &c., I removed a præputium. He awoke and cried out, before I had finished; but was immediately thrown back into the trance, from which all the efforts of the spectators, six doctors included, could not arouse him. He was operated on at 12 o'clock, and awoke at 3.

"On being questioned, he said, that he had not seen an European that day, and had suffered no pain; as I said would probably be the case, if the trance could be speedily re-established.

"Next day, he complained much of the pricks inflicted upon him by the practical *philosophers*, who had literally made a *pincushion* of him."

Removal of a tumor on the calf of the leg.—"June 12th. Lokee, a peasant woman, aged 60; has a sacculated tumor

on the calf of the left leg, of nine years standing. It is full of deep ulcerations and maggots. I tried to subdue her yesterday, but the pain did not allow her to get beyond common sleep.

"To-day, after much trouble, first by one person and then another, she was entranced, and I cut out the tumor in the presence of Captain Elder, *without her feeling it*, and we left her sleeping.

"June 13th. She awoke three hours after the operation, without knowing anything about it, and to-day asked me who cut off the tumor?

"*Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.*

" 'The swelling on my leg was removed on the 12th June; but I know not when, how, and by whom it was done. Certified by me,

" '12th June, 1845.'

'LOKEE.' "

Opening abscesses.—"June 14th. Toorab, a peasant, aged 30, of a rickety constitution; has a sinus *six inches in length*, below the pectoral muscle, of seven months' standing. We have not been able to close it by any means, and it was necessary to lay it open. He was entranced by one of my assistants, and *I laid open the whole length* of the diseased tract without his being aware of it, and left him sleeping.

"June 15th. He awoke soon after I left him, but immediately fell back into sleep; and on awaking, asked where the blood came from? He has suffered *little or nothing since*, and has no recollection of having been injured.

"*Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.*

" 'My breast was laid open on the 14th June, but I have no recollection of it. Certified by me,

" '15th June, 1845.'

'TOORAB.' "

"May 30th. Modoomohun Roy, a fine boy, 12 years old, was brought to hospital fourteen days ago, with a compound fracture of both bones of the fore-arm. My assistants have several times tried to mesmerise him in the hope of assuaging the pain, but without success.

"Matter has formed, and the wound must be enlarged upwards and downwards. As he was apprehensive, I put a *piece of cloth soaked in cold water over his eyes, and went on with my affairs*, telling him that it would cool his brain. The people were dismissed; and, *approaching him unawares*,

I succeeded in entrancing him in ten minutes, and laid open the arm *without disturbing him*.

"I came back after three hours and found him still asleep. On awaking, he said that the pain was much less, and that no one had hurt him to-day.

"June 2nd. Gungaram Dass, a prisoner, was injured ten days ago by some rubbish falling upon him, and three abscesses have formed in consequence, at the elbow, wrist, and ankle of the left side, which require to be opened. In a few minutes I subdued him; opened the abscesses, and left him still sleeping.

"On my return, after two hours, I found him sitting up looking at the pus flowing from the wounds, and asked, How it had escaped since I saw him in the morning? *He could not tell*. Of its own accord? I suppose so. Has any body cut you, or given you pain to-day? *Nobody*.

"Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.

"On the 2nd June, three wounds were made on my body by the Doctor Sâhib, without my knowing it at the time. Certified by me,

"GUNGARAM DASS.

"*Jail Hospital, 6th June, 1845.*"

Tapping for dropsy.—"June 24th. A man was tapped to-day for dropsy, when asleep, and ten quarts of water withdrawn. He afterwards said that he was only aware of being pricked by the trocar, but remembered nothing more."

Seton run through a long abscess.—"Parbuttie, an elderly woman, has a sinus extending from a little above the inner ankle under the calf to the outer side of the leg near the knee, which is contracted by a dense cicatrix running two-thirds round it, and involving the ham-strings: the knee has been in this state for ten years. Being put to sleep, a counter opening was made in the leg, and a seton run through the sinus without her feeling it. I then leant all my weight on the knee, and succeeded in extending it a little, but the diseased structures would yield no further. A strong and heavy gentleman present then applied all his power, and effected a little more; but it was clear that no force short of breaking the limb could straighten it. But it was equally certain, that any common muscular or ligamentous contraction must have yielded on the spot. The woman *continued to sleep for hours afterwards*.

Operation on the gums.—"July 9th. Mrs. C. is suffering much from one of her wisdom teeth; half of it has come through, but the rest is covered with the indurated and ulcerated gum. I explained, that the source of the irritation must be removed by cutting away the gum. As she was harassed by face, jaw, and ear-aches, I mesmerised her for ten minutes locally to soothe the pain, and removed it completely for two hours.

"July 10th. I entranced her to-day sitting on a couch, in the presence of her husband and his sister; laid her back, and cut off the offending gum, *without awaking her*, and left her sleeping.

"July 11th. This is a very interesting case, as it shews the invasion of the waking state by the mesmeric one. Mrs. C. on waking yesterday, arose as if from common sleep, and the blood about her mouth only attracted her notice to the tooth; she thought the gum had burst, and was expecting to see me. For, strange to say, she had no recollection of having seen me that day, nor of what happened for half an hour before her sleep. The incidents that took place immediately before she was mesmerised were these, as her husband informed me,—

"She received letters from the postman, a lady came to visit her, and then I arrived, and sat conversing with her and her visitor a short time: after seeing the lady to her carriage, I returned, and mesmerised her. All these incidents were blotted from her mind.*

"She feels quite well, and awoke much refreshed. If such inroads are made into the regions of sense at one sitting, it may probably be pushed to the extinguishment of all sense; and this is the power made a show of for money!"

Extraction of teeth.—"Sheik Nurree Ooden. Seen for the first time to-day; was entranced, and the last grinder tooth taken out, *without awaking*; slept for an hour after, and felt no pain on waking."

"I had ordered a man to be mesmerised in the morning, on purpose to have a tooth taken out, and on reaching the Charity Hospital had the satisfaction to find him entranced, and begged Mr. McQuesten to draw the tooth. *This he declined, and I extracted it before him*, without awaking the man, and presented it to the lady as a mesmeric souvenir. Seeing a collection of matter at the ear, I also made an incision into the swelling before he awoke. On coming to his senses, he said that he felt as if an ant had pricked him when asleep."

* See my remarks, *Zoist*, vol. III., p. 476.

Mr. dentist Mc Questen was of the noble fraternity of his art mentioned in Vol. III., p. 508. A lady present had said, "It's impossible; it can't be: I *won't* believe it—it's all a trick." She was now convinced, and Dr. Esdaile "took the liberty to hint in the most respectful manner that there was *something still more wonderful to him than mesmerism—and that was the extent of human incredulity on the subject.*"

"May 26th. Ram Dass, a large robust man, has a supernumerary tooth between the eye-tooth and the first grinder, growing horizontally into his mouth, and causing him great annoyance. I put him on a mattress on the table. In a quarter of an hour his limbs were cataleptic, and I proceeded to open his jaws. The temporal muscles cost me some trouble to relax them, and I had to operate with great caution as he was not under the extreme influence of the power, and I had failed two days before in the case of a lady for want of necessary precaution in like circumstances. It was difficult to get hold of the tooth from its position, but it was at last grasped and extracted. He moved, and moaned; but I soon tranquillized him, and he did not awake till suffocated by the blood.

"He declared that he awoke from this cause, and not from feeling pain. Several patients have exhibited these instinctive movements, of which they have no recollection on coming to their senses."

Removal of a hæmorrhoid.—"July 25th. Buggabutte, a Hindoo woman, aged 40, has been much troubled with a suppurating hæmorrhoid as big as the end of my thumb. She was mesmerised at 11 o'clock, and at 12 I cut off the tumor: she moved and groaned, but on awaking, half an hour after, recollected nothing about it. She missed the swelling, but knew not what had become of it."

Dissecting out a diseased nail.—"August 4th. Sona, a Hindoo woman, aged 25. Both nails of the great toes are decayed to the roots; their place being filled by fungoid ulcers, the effects of syphilis and mercury.

"She was mesmerised at 12 o'clock, and at half-past one I dissected out the entire root of one nail, without awaking her. The left arm and hand trembled only, and this I subdued by placing her hand between mine for some minutes, and left her sleeping.

"August 5th. Repeated the operation to-day with precisely the same effects. On neither occasion did she feel any increase of pain on waking."

Application of strong acid.—"Aug. 8th. Gendo, a Hindoo woman, aged 50. There is a large sloughing ulcer covering all the right temple. She was mesmerised at 10 o'clock, and at half-past 11, I applied muriatic acid (there being no nitric acid in store) freely to the whole surface, *without her shewing any sensibility*: she awoke twenty minutes after, and knew nothing about it."

"August 13th. Dr. Finch" (editor of the *Calcutta Medical Journal*, and bound therefore to look as sagacious as Wakley, Forbes, and the other medical editors of England), "freely applied muriatic acid (such as is furnished by the Company's Dispensary) to the sore covering the whole right temple of the woman Gendo, who was mesmerised in their presence by one of the hospital attendants, without her shewing *the smallest degree of consciousness*; and it was with great difficulty that I awoke her, after they had failed to do so. On coming to her senses, she declared that she knew nothing about it."

"August 18th. The woman Gendo next fell under his observation. The ulcer on this woman's temple was covered with muriatic acid by Dr. Finch on the 11th instant, with the results already related. Dr. Bedford asked leave to apply the acid to her when awake; and whatever I might think of such a proposal, I consented. The end of the glass-stopple wetted with the acid was applied once or twice, and the woman for a few seconds shewed none of the instinctive movements of acute pain. There could be no mistake about it—she was found out, and I confess that I felt considerably obfuscated, and not relieved from my thick-coming fancies by Dr. B. suggesting that '*she was probably a naturally insensible person*.'* I began to think the arch-deceiver was at the bottom of it after all; and that having set a snare and delusion for me, he was now laughing at my beard. Then again, I thought of complaining to the Medical Board against the Apothecary General for furnishing such asses' milk as mineral acids for the public service—when lo! I was roused from my trance of bewilderment by hearing the woman complain, that we had 'put pepper on her head;' and her actions corresponded with such an idea, for she sat up shewing that she was in great pain, and immediately after declared her head was on fire; got out of bed, and walked distractedly about the room in great agony. I ordered her head to be fomented to soothe her; Dr. B. saying, that 'he had done more than he intended.' The defective sensibility that had nearly compromised my mesmeric surgical operations, and the honesty of my patients and the Company's acids, was simply a film of insensible

* Dr. Bedford imitates Sir Benjamin Brodie in the East. Pamph. p. 36.

lymph that adhered to the surface of the sore, and protected, for a moment, the nerves below. As the most effectual means of assuaging the poor woman's sufferings, I desired the Durwan, who is her mesmeriser, to endeavour to throw her into the trance; this he succeeded in doing, and I took the occasion to pare off some tubercles around the sore that prevented it from healing; she moved a little, and put her hand to her ear; but immediately after became quite tranquil. In about half an hour I awoke her with very great difficulty, that Dr. B. might see her awake, and hear her first words; which were, that she knew nothing about what we were talking of, she had even forgotten being burned."

To shew that Dr. Finch hesitated at no barbarity in his absurd scepticism, for barbarity such doings are in sceptics, I make the following quotation:—

"Madub was placed in a chair at one end of the verandah, having been carefully examined first, and Dr. Finch planted himself at the other end, at the distance of 200 feet. Having given Dr. Finch his instructions, and sent the other gentlemen down to watch the effects on the man, I retired to a room out of sight, and only took an occasional peep to ascertain progress. In about twenty minutes, I suppose, I called on the man by name; and as he paid no attention, I begged Dr. Finch to go and look at his work. Suffice it to say here, that he was *subjected to torments from which an Indian at the stake would have shrunk*, and which I only permitted, that it might not be said I interfered to save my phenomena. *The man might have been a corpse for any effect produced*; the only sign of vitality being that streams of tears ran down from his chin from the long irritation of the lachrymal gland by the fumes of ammonia.

"The medical physiologist, or attentive observer, has no need of such expedients for testing the condition of a living being."

Dr. Finch was the very Liston of our Asiatic dominions, if Mr. Wakley, with the tenderness for his fellow-creatures so characteristic of him, is correct in denouncing Mr. Liston as the perpetrator of the following brutality upon a poor girl in the Edinburgh Infirmary, who was spontaneously cataleptic and insensible to mechanical injury—precisely by disease in the state which we every day induce artificially by mesmerism. I extract it from the 32nd page of my pamphlet.

"'We cannot avoid noticing,' says Dr. Duncan, in his clinical lecture in the University of Edinburgh, 'and we do so with feelings of the most unmingled disgust, an unmanly, wanton, and barbarous expe-

riment, practised on this unfortunate patient by an individual, unconnected, we are happy to add, with the department of clinical medicine' (as distinguished from clinical surgery). 'It will scarcely be credited, but nevertheless it is strictly true, that during a paroxysm of insensibility, the person to whom we allude, *tore with his nails two separate pieces of skin from the hand of the patient.* She was not aware of the cruel and unwarrantable experiment at the time, but she felt the effects in the intervals very acutely. It is satisfactory, however, to know that but one feeling of the most unequivocal reprobation pervaded teachers and pupils at this inhuman and unprofessional act.' Dr. Duncan hints only that it was a surgeon. Mr. Wakley declares the surgeon was Mr. Liston; for, in the index is this reference to the two pages in which the experiment is related:—

"'LISTON, Mr., inhuman experiment by, pp. 278, 281.'

"Yet it is impossible not to think the statement erroneous, because Mr. Wakley and Mr. Liston are now inseparable friends, and Mr. Wakley has placed his son under Mr. Liston. There, however, stands the accusation in the index to *Lancet*, May 22, 1830, p. 278, vol. 18."

The following are examples of the useful removal of sensibility when no surgical instrument was employed, or of absolute pain.

"June 24th. Alunga, a woman, with slight contractions of both elbow-joints from rheumatism, with *acute pain* on pressing the ulnar nerve at the elbow. At first, she did not bear much handling without awaking; but on being left alone, the trance deepened, and she permitted me *to work her joints as if they were door-hinges, and extend them to the necessary extent without awaking.* One arm was much freer in its movements after the first process, and there was no pain.

"June 27th. Alunga complains of considerable pain from the extension in her left arm to-day, and the nerve at the elbow is very tender. I passed my fingers along the course of the nerve for a few minutes, which removed the pain, and allowed her to extend the arm. I then held my fingers before her eyes for a few seconds, and she fell into my arms quite insensible.

"I have already mentioned several instances of persons awaking and falling back again into the trance immediately, and in this woman it may be seen several times in one forenoon. The difficulty they find in opening their eyes, even when quite awake and in possession of all their other senses, is very curious, and characteristic of the mesmeric state.

"I awoke this woman to-day, and she sat up conversing with us as usual; but she could not possibly open her eyes,

and when ordered to do so, was obliged to pull her eye-lids asunder with her fingers: but the eye-lids would not remain open, the muscles being completely relaxed. By rubbing and blowing in her eyes, the difficulty was removed.

"July 3rd. Alunga. This woman's pains fly about, but *I can chase them away in less than a minute from any part, by merely holding my fingers over it.* She came limping up to me to-day to have the pain taken out of her heel and 'tendo Achillis;' and this I did by passing my fingers along the pained part, and then grasping it. She expressed the utmost astonishment and delight both by words and looks.

"Aug. 18th I requested Dr. B. to satisfy himself if the woman Alunga had pain in any part of her body. On being asked, she said there was acute pain in one heel, and Dr. B. spent a long time in testing the reality of its existence. He at last said that he was convinced there was considerable pain in that spot. I then passed my fingers over the part for a minute, and grasped the heel as firmly as I could, and she declared the pain had vanished; and Dr. B. allowed that it had."

"May 16th. Ramtarun Battacharjie, whose arm was amputated on the 5th instant while in the mesmeric trance, complains of *great pain* in the stump to-day. To be mesmerised.

"May 17th. He was easily put to sleep yesterday, and slept for three hours (the average length of the induced slumber); on awaking was *free from pain*, and remains so to-day."

"May 22nd. Keeno, a prisoner; saw him for the first time to-day, at 11 o'clock.

"He has had *a severe pain*, extending from the left eyebrow to one half of the head, for *four days*; and there is pain on pressure at the supra-orbital notch.

"I made him lie down on the floor in a small room of the hospital, and in twenty minutes left him asleep with one arm suspended perpendicularly in the air: locked the door, and left him alone.

"I returned at 1 o'clock, and, opening the door, found him lying exactly as I had left him. He awoke whilst I was looking at him, and said that he had not been asleep. On being asked why his arm was still in the air, he could give no account of it. So insensible is the approach of sleep under this grand narcotic, or so instantaneous its invasion, that generally no trace remains in the minds of the sleepers of the circumstances attending their repose. This will be seen in the following case also. He awoke *perfectly free from head-ache.*

There is a little pain on pressing the supra-orbitary foramen : three leeches to be put over it.

" May 24th. *No return of pain.* Discharged cured."

" May 22nd. Went to-day to see my patient Mr. Clermont, head master of the Lower School, Hooghly College, and found that he had gone out to his duty.

" Mrs. Clermont mentioned, that she was suffering from one of her constitutional nervous head-aches, which commence with a pain in the back of the neck, that spreads over the scalp and around the eye-brows. She has been weakly and nervous of late. I said, that she had better permit me to try the effect of mesmerism on her complaint : that I had just put a prisoner to sleep with a similar disease, and expected to find him well on my return.

" No objection being made, I requested her to turn her back to me, and sit erect in her chair, and describe anything uncommon she might feel during the process. After a few minutes, she said, that she felt a warmth in the neck, and on extending my manipulations it advanced to the head and eyes. In about eight minutes, she said the pain was much less, but that she felt very drowsy. Upon which, I asked, 'Shall I put you to sleep?' In reply, she only smiled ; and in two minutes more she lifted her right hand, put it to the side of her head, and went to sleep. At this moment a lady entered the room, (Mr. Clermont's sister, I afterwards learned,) and I begged her to be good enough to remain by Mrs. Clermont till I returned with her husband. Having found Mr. Clermont, I asked his pardon for taking such a liberty with his wife without his consent, and requested him to return with me to be present at her waking. We found her as I had left her, with some members of the family looking on. I extended her arm at a right angle from her body, in which position, or any other, it remained fixed till I moved it, and her sister-in-law pricked her hand several times unheeded. As I saw the party becoming uneasy, I proceeded to awake her, and it required considerable trouble to do so. When awake, she felt confused and ashamed to have been found asleep by me, and it was only after long reflection and questioning that she recalled the circumstances under which she had gone to sleep. *The head-ache was quite gone when she awoke.*

" 6 o'clock p.m. There is *no head-ache*, and she feels and looks greatly refreshed."

" June 2nd. Mrs. Clermont says that she is *better than she has been for a long time past ; having never risen without a head-ache of late.* There has been no return of the

complaint, and she no longer feels the distressing languor and oppression that she complained of till operated upon by me."

"May 24th. When we were leaving the hospital, the native doctor reported that a man had just been admitted with a pain on one side of his head, like the man cured on the 22nd. I desired him to be brought before us, and he stated that for the last six days he had suffered from an acute intermittent head-ache confined to one side of his head; that it commences at 4 o'clock in the morning, and continues till 12 p.m. Turning to my friends, I observed that I should like to entrance this man as a preventative, if they felt disposed to look on. They consented to do so; and Mr. Fisher has been good enough to send me his notes of what followed.

"Mr. Fisher's Report.

"On Saturday last, the 24th instant, I visited the jail hospital in company with Dr. Esdaile, for the purpose of seeing a prisoner awakened out of the mesmeric trance, who had been suffering for some time from an inflamed eye. Upon our arrival the man was awake, and no farther experiment could therefore be tried with this patient. Another, however, immediately presented himself, who had never been subjected to the mesmeric influence before, and whom, I believe, the doctor had never seen. He had been *suffering much for some days from severe pains in the head and face*, and though not at that moment in pain, it was thought advisable to try the effects of mesmerism as a *preventative*. The manipulations were immediately commenced, and in seven minutes the man was in a cataleptic state. We tried various means to test the intensity of the trance. His limbs rigidly maintained themselves in any posture in which Dr. Esdaile chose to place them, and at last he was raised up on his feet; his back being slightly bent, his arms stretched over his head, which was drooping upon his shoulder: and he remained fixed in this constrained position for some time, without exhibiting any symptoms of consciousness or uneasiness. After a few minutes, he was left to his 'deep repose,' reclined upon the ground; and I understand that *since this first trial, he has never had the slightest return of the pains of which he previously complained*. We were much astonished at the phenomena exhibited on this occasion; the limbs being so extraordinarily supple, and at the same time capable of being so rigidly fixed in any position, at the will of the operator.

"F. FISHER.

"Chinsurah, 29th May, 1845."

"July 10th. Oboychurn Roy, a Hindoo Zemindar, a stout brave man, had his left fore-arm struck off at the middle, twelve days ago, in defending his house against a gang of dacoits, who killed his servant at the same time.

"There are two white rings on his arm, the marks of cruel ligatures applied to stanch the blood, and the wonder is, that the arm was not strangled and mortified. Several pieces of dead bone required to be removed. This of course gave him *much pain, for which the whole arm was mesmerised, with great relief.* He dropped asleep in half an hour, for a short time, and *slept the whole of that night: the only sleep he has had since the injury was inflicted.*"

"July 2nd. Nobee, an elderly worn-out woman, has had rheumatic pains in her back for some months. She was put into the trance to-day; and *on waking, was free from pain.*

"July 4th. Dookee, for several months has had a constant feeling of insects crawling about his face and scalp, and it extends often to the whole body; his eyes wink and water constantly. He was mesmerised for an hour, and then got a dose of water. He soon complained of general agitation and feeling of alarm at the heart, and then slept a little. On leaving the hospital, *the sense of formication had entirely disappeared, and he did not wink more than natural.*"

"July 13th. Four men and one woman were entranced to-day.

"No. 1. for lumbago.

"No. 2. for sciatica.

"No. 3. for pain in the course of the crural nerve.

"No. 4. for syphilitic rheumatism.

"No. 5. ditto. They were all affected by the usual manipulations, assisted by the breath.

"After the first day, the trance was induced in them all by giving mesmerised water daily, till the 17th; on which day, the three with neuralgic pains were dismissed cured; the syphilitic cases were not materially benefitted, as might be expected, the constitutional specific disease being still in operation."

"August 6th. Golam Hossein. His knee has been contracted to this extent — for two months from rheumatism. He was mesmerised on the first time at 11 o'clock, and his leg made quite straight at 1 p.m. I both felt and heard the new ligamentous adhesions cracking under my hands.

"It did not at all annoy him, and on coming to his senses, half an hour after, he knew nothing about it."

The power of mesmerism over inflammation has been demonstrated in Vol. II., p. 239; Vol. III., p. 24, 326, 512. I am happy to add fresh proofs from Dr. Esdaile's experience.

"May 17th. Nazir, a Mussulman, aged 20, is suffering from the sequelæ of ophthalmia, of two months standing; the sight of the left eye is destroyed by the iris adhering and protruding through the cornea.

"The cornea of the right eye is muddy, with superficial ulcerations on it, and a pterygium is forming; there is constant lacrymation, and he *cannot distinguish a white man from a black one*. Placing him erect in a chair before me, I directed the operation to the eyes and head generally, and desired him to mention what he felt as we proceeded.

"He soon said that he felt an agreeable warmth where my fingers passed without touching him; shortly after he said that *his eyes were easier*, and on extending the process to the body he felt a general warmth pervade it, and sweat stood in drops on his face. He next said that he felt a fear come over him that he could not account for, and desired greatly to sleep. Having no desire to go farther, we here stopped. To be put into the sleep to-morrow, and mesmerised for ten minutes daily afterwards.

"May 22nd. Has been mesmerised daily, and put to sleep twice. He always feels better after the process; says that after it his body feels light and pleasant; and the expression of his face is much improved. The lacrymation has ceased, and he *read two words* in Bengalee and Persian to-day: the pterygium will be *the only impediment* to his sight."

"May 24th. Nazir Mahomed, a prisoner. Saw him for the first time to-day, at 11 o'clock a.m. For the last four days he has laboured under acute inflammation of the conjunctiva of the right eye. The conjunctival vessels form a raised zone around the cornea: there is constant lacrymation; pain over half the head, and he cannot distinguish objects.

"I made him lie down on the floor, and rendered him cataleptic in twenty minutes: then putting his clasped hands above his head in the air, I locked the door, and took the key with me to Chinsurah, where I met Mr. Money and Mr. Fisher, who are much interested in my proceedings, and daily ask 'What progress?' I answered, that there was a man entranced waiting my return, and they offered to go

back with me. On opening the door, we found that the man had just awoke, (after $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours,) and being asked in what attitude he found himself on waking, he said, that his hands were clasped above his head. The patient reported, that the pain had quite left the side of his head, and only a little remained about the eye; the eye-lid moves much freer, and the watering is less. His general feelings were greatly improved; his body before the process was hot and heavy, and is now cool and light.

"Cold water to the head and eyes constantly—a dose of physic at night.

"May 25th. Nazir Mahomed, entranced yesterday for conjunctivitis. He has slept well all night.

"There is no pain in the head; very slight uneasiness about the eye; no watering—zone of blood-vessels around the cornea gone, and the inflammation is reduced from vivid redness of the acute stage, to the dull brick-red colour of the chronic state. He can now *see very well* with the inflamed eye.

"I put him on a high stool before me, and desired him to tell me when he became sleepy; but he had not time to do so, as I left him sitting entranced in five minutes.

"This was done with the idea of lessening the determination of blood to the head.

"I then proceeded to my usual business in Chinsurah.... we returned to the jail hospital, after I had been absent an hour, and found the man sitting precisely as I had left him, and his body colder than natural. The influence was now nearly worn out, (partly, no doubt, by remaining by muscular exertion, though insensible to it, so long in this constrained position,) and he awoke soon after my arrival. He said, that the eye was still farther improved, and it looked so. I consider the case terminated. It was evident to the most unpractised eye, that inflammation was incompatible with such a state of the system."

"June 29th. Sidissur Ghose, a prisoner, I saw for the first time to-day, at eleven o'clock. He had been suffering for three days from orchitis, and the part has been enlarged for years; it was *exceedingly tender* to the touch, and he was *bent double* in walking. I determined to subject him to the trance, if possible, for the same reasons that induced me to treat an inflamed eye in this way. It seemed very probable to me, that inflammation would die out during many hours of absolute repose to the nervous and muscular systems, as fire expires for want of fuel; pain and irritation being the

exciting and sustaining causes of inflammatory action. Remove all pain and sensibility for hours, and it is only natural to suppose that the circulation will return to its natural channels. If the absolute repose be too short to recruit the vital energies at once, the mesmeric slumber can be reproduced at will, when once established, and how important mesmerised water would be for this purpose!

"6 o'clock p.m. The man entranced at eleven o'clock to-day, awoke at three. He bore pressure much better, and there was no heat in the part. I administered three ounces of mesmerised water, and in five minutes he was in the trance.

"June 30th. Sidissur awoke at nine o'clock last night, but went to sleep again immediately, and slept well all night. The swelling has decreased, and I can *squeeze the part all over without pain*, and he walks *erect without uneasiness*. The disease is subdued, but to make assurance doubly sure, I repeated the dose of water, and in three minutes he became insensible.

"July 1st. Sidissur slept till nine o'clock last night, and had a good night afterwards. Dismissed cured at his own request."

"July 8th. Geereeah, a girl of 10 years, is suffering from *suppressio urinæ* for two days, in consequence of violence done to the perineum, by which the recto-vaginal septum has been destroyed. The vesica extends up to the umbilicus, and the abdomen is extremely tender. It is impossible *fistulam demittere* in *iter urinæ* from the inflamed state of the parts. I mesmerised her for half an hour, after which she slept for an hour, *minxit abunde* on waking, and all disagreeable symptoms immediately disappeared, and she *was cured without a dose of medicine*."

I must bestow my humble tribute of admiration upon Dr. Esdaile. He has proved himself a man of both acute and philosophical observation. Not merely the general facts which he details, but the modifications of the phenomena, are exactly what we all notice here, and in reading every case we could fancy some one or other of our own patients was spoken of: and yet his observations are nearly all to him original. His moral character is as fine as his intellectual. He loves truth sincerely and ardently and for her own sake, and dares to proclaim her in the sight of all men, defending her with the most undaunted and noble spirit, well contented to have the world against him while engaged so gloriously.*

* I of course have substituted many latin expressions in my extracts.—J. E.

IV. Application of Caustic to the Eye, in Devonshire.

I have been favoured by a private gentleman in Devonshire with an account of the painless application of caustic in the mesmeric state to the eye, which would otherwise have been agonized.

“Alphington, 6th March, 1846.

“My dear Doctor,—I find from Mr. Janson that you wish specific information respecting the application of caustic to Miss Hole’s eye, and she having kindly given her consent, I with great pleasure communicate to you the facts of the case, with full permission to publish them with the names if you think proper.

“About a month since I was asked by my friend Mr. Parker, the surgeon, to mesmerise Miss Hole, the daughter of the late Rev. — Hole, of Belstone in this county, with a view to the improvement of her general health, and also with the hope of being able to apply caustic to her eye without causing the excruciating and prolonged pain she before suffered under the operation. I succeeded in producing sleep at the first sitting in about twenty minutes. On the fourth time of her being mesmerised, caustic was applied to the left eye, and so perfect was her insensibility to pain that on being awoke she was perfectly unconscious of anything having been done; and the next morning Mr. Parker with difficulty persuaded her that she had without her knowledge gone through an ordeal which she from previous experience so much dreaded. During my absence from Exeter, Mr. Janson kindly mesmerised Miss Hole twice, and the first time caustic was again applied with perfect success; but on the second occasion she only felt some inconvenience on awaking, owing to the coma not having been continued sufficiently long after the operation. (I always continue it at least two hours after the eye has been touched.) On Saturday last caustic was again used during sleep, and Miss. H. was not aware of it until she looked in the glass some time after I had roused her. Mr. Parker is of opinion that the eyes derive much more benefit when the caustic is applied in the mesmeric than in the normal state.

“In Miss Hole’s case the phenomenon of ‘prevision’ or ‘prescience’ is beautifully manifested, added to which she gives most specific directions as to her treatment. One instance of which I will now relate as briefly as I can. On the 27th of February, while in sleep-waking, she informed me that on the 3rd of March she should have severe spasms in

the head; they would commence a little before 7 o'clock in the evening; and she directed that precisely at 7 a pint of blood should be taken from her left arm, at night some aperient medicine must be administered, and the next day tonic mixture; the latter to be taken three times a day for four days. She also said, 'If I am not bled on the 3rd of March, I shall lose the sight of my right eye (the left is already dark).' Miss Hole having requested that the bleeding might be performed during sleep, Mr. Parker, Mr. Janson, and myself, visited her at a little after six in the evening of the 3rd, and found her already suffering considerably and in a state of partial delirium, objecting to be put to sleep, or to allow either of the party to approach her. I however succeeded in producing coma in less than three minutes, and at a quarter before seven the spasms commenced and were very violent. At five minutes before seven o'clock I enquired if she would be bled. She replied, 'Not *yet*—it wants a few minutes of seven.' At seven she was bled to the extent she directed; the spasms continued exactly one hour as she had predicted, after which she became quite comfortable. I kept her asleep altogether three hours and a half, when I awoke her perfectly unconscious of anything having taken place.

"On Mr. Parker visiting Miss H. the next morning, he was most agreeably surprised to find her so comfortable. She has mentioned another spasm from which she shall suffer on the evening of the 9th instant, and directed to be again bled to the extent of half a pint. 'The spasms of the 9th will be just as severe as those on the 3rd, but will not last so long.'

"I had forgotten to name that a little time after caustic had been applied the *first time during sleep*, I asked Miss H. if she felt any pain in the eyes. To which she replied, 'A little in the one to which caustic was applied on Sunday.' *This was not the eye that had just been touched.* I shall be happy on some future occasion to give you, if desired, a report of anything worth naming that may occur in the above case.

"I have read this account to Mr. Parker, who perfectly agrees in every particular, as a proof of which he means to add his signature.

"Yours, very sincerely,

"J. C. LUXMOORE.

"JOHN BATTISHILL PARKER, Member of the Royal

"College of Surgeons, London.

"*Exeter.*"

V. Two remarkable Tooth Extractions.

1. Extraction of a tight Double Tooth, in London.

So many teeth have now been extracted without pain in the mesmeric state, that I should not have thought it worth while to record another, but for the stupid incredulity of the medical world and the disposition of some dentists to cringe to the physicians and surgeons who they think can be of service to them and form an immense majority fiercely adverse to mesmerism. I trust therefore that every future painless extraction will be recorded till our enemies lie prostrate at our feet, as for their comfort I tell them they all soon must, though sprawling in the same heap with such interesting beings as Mr. Wakley and Dr. Forbes. Independently of this reason, I am most anxious to record the following case because it illustrates an important point in producing local insensibility.

In Vol. II., p. 247, I mentioned that I had a patient who, precisely like two others, has insensibility of mechanical injury in the mesmeric state as high only as the collar-bones. I contrived to take the sensibility very nearly away by long passes with contact upon her cheek. At p. 388, I mentioned that another tooth was extracted, and, as we were not hurried, I continued the passes down the cheek till sensibility gradually left the outside, then the inside of the cheek, next the outside, and then the inside of the gum, in succession. A third tooth was decayed and lately gave her severe pain, which, however, I was always able to remove by passes upon the cheek for two or three minutes, when she came to me and was thrown into the mesmeric state in the morning. But it was better for the tooth to be extracted, and Mr. Nicholles again obliged me by operating upon her. With one pass she was thrown into the mesmeric state. I now placed one of my forefingers upon the outside of her left lower gum, and the other upon the inside, and continued drawing them along the gum for a minute. This entirely removed all sensibility, for I forced the edge of my nail against the gum without giving her the least pain. She is a most truthful and in all respects excellent girl, as a daily intercourse with her for three years, except when I have been out of town in the autumn, has amply proved. The tooth was extracted without any sign of pain; and the operation was difficult and cautiously slow, so slow that during it I twice had an opportunity of turning round to the bystanders and remarking how excruciating it would have been but for mesmerism. She said she had no pain: and, to use Dr. Esdaile's words, "I presume she knew best." (p. 35.) Of course when she woke she knew nothing of what had passed, and was delighted to find the tooth gone.

The following is Mr. Nicholles's account :—

"Upon examining the young lady's mouth, I found the offending tooth to be the anterior sinister-molar of the inferior jaw; and was somewhat pleased that I was called upon to perform the operation under the mesmeric insensibility, as I foresaw that I should have occasion to employ some considerable and continuous pressure in consequence of the contiguous teeth preventing my removing the tooth by the expansion of the external alveolar plate. After the young lady was placed in a mesmeric trance, the tooth was removed, notwithstanding the great obstacles alluded to, without the least sensibility on the part of the patient. On her recovery from the mesmeric influence, she expressed much surprise at having lost her troublesome companion.

"This operation was performed in the presence of two friends, one a medical gentleman, who both expressed their astonishment and delight at such an extraordinary, and, to them, novel exhibition."

This is the fifth tooth that Mr. Nicholles has been good enough to remove from my patients in the mesmeric state: and he has always allowed me to tell the thing to every body, thus not resembling either Mr. Tomes, who would extract but would not tell, or those other worthies who would not extract at all.* A London dentist has just made it known that several of his colleagues here have resolved to refuse to extract teeth in the mesmeric state. Happily Mr. Nicholles is not one of the magnanimous party.† Mr. Bell of the city admitted the truth of mesmerism when I shewed him the Okeys at the hospital and has admitted it ever since on all occasions and does not refuse to extract: nor does Mr. Purland:‡ and I have received the following note from a stranger :—

"Mr. Hayes presents his compliments to Dr. Elliotson, and begs to inform him that he will have much pleasure to 'extract teeth in the mesmeric state,' as also, if his humble aid would tend to advance that noble science MESMERISM, by publicly certifying to the result of operations under that state, he will at all times be happy in so doing.

"Mr. H. has twice operated in the mesmeric state, and has practised mesmerism, *non-professionally*, for some years.

"Mr. H. has Dr. Elliotson's '*Cases*' and *The Zoist* on the

* Vol. III., p. 508.

† Besides these three from Mary Ann, he extracted one from Rosina (Pamphlet, p. 66), and one from the younger Okey.

‡ Vol. III., p. 214, 216.

table in his reception room, notwithstanding the detractions of Dr. Forbes and the sneers of professional brethren.

"13, Brook Street, March 10, 1846.

"J. Elliotson, Esq., M.D., &c. &c. &c."

2. I have just received the following interesting narrative for *The Zoist* :—

"Plymouth, March 14th, 1846.

"Difficult case of Tooth Extraction in the mesmeric state, without pain.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

"Sir,—Permit me to add my mite to the mass of valuable evidence which you have accumulated in proof of the power of mesmerism as a preventive of human suffering, in cases of surgical operation. Notwithstanding the sneers of the college authorities, who act and speak as though the dignity of the profession would be endangered if there were no pangs inflicted by the use of their instruments, we find growing evidence that it is only the wilful indifference or bigotted prejudice of medical practitioners which enforces the endurance of needless suffering upon a vast number of our fellow-creatures; for although mesmerism might not, and would not, in all cases accomplish the desired object, yet, from the very limited experiments which have hitherto been tried, a sufficient number of successful cases may be cited, to prove that it is not only worth while to try the experiments upon a broader scale, but that it is the bounden duty of every enlightened and humane man to do so.

"On Thursday, the 5th of March, an operation was performed at my house, by Mr. Brendon, surgeon-dentist, of this town, upon a young woman in my employ as nurse-maid. She had been suffering very severely from tooth-ache for several days, and Mr. Brendon, being applied to, advised the extraction of a stump of a double tooth in the lower jaw, which was decayed completely down to the level of the jaw-bone. Knowing the girl to be a good mesmeric subject, I placed her under the influence, and Mr. Brendon commenced the operation by lancing the gum extensively. He then introduced the key, and made several attempts to lift the stump, but could obtain no hold for the instrument: he was equally unsuccessful with the forceps, the tooth breaking away as pressure was applied. He then resorted to the punch, with which he endeavoured to extract the fangs separately, but was again foiled in his efforts, as he was fearful of injuring the alveolar

process by employing too much force. Twenty-five minutes had elapsed since the commencement of the operation, and during this period not the slightest symptom of feeling had been evinced by the girl; not a sound indicative of any sensation had escaped her lips, nor had she shrunk in the slightest degree from any application of the instrument, although Mr. Brendon stated that under ordinary circumstances the operation would have been more painful than the removal of six teeth.

"Mr. Brendon now left the house, and returned some hours afterwards, accompanied by a professional friend. The girl had in the meantime been kept in the mesmeric sleep, with the exception of about half an hour, when she was awoke to take her dinner. She said she was totally unconscious of any operation having been performed; but in a very few minutes after she was awoke, excruciating pain came on, the result of what she had undergone. I soon threw her into the sleep again, and at five o'clock Mr. Brendon and Mr. Bate arrived; and, having minutely examined the jaw, the former gentleman succeeded in very skilfully removing the larger fang with the punch and forceps. He was however again baffled with the smaller fang, which appeared to be completely buried in the socket. The most perfect insensibility was manifested by the girl; but after watching the operation for some time, I began myself to feel symptoms of faintness, and the girl soon complained of feeling faint too, and requested that her hands might be placed in cold water. This was done, and unfortunately it had the effect of immediately rousing the girl from the mesmeric sleep, and restoring her to consciousness.

"Her look and expression of terror at the sight of the operators and the instruments, were very striking, and shewed how utterly unconscious she had been of what had been going on. I endeavoured again to put her to sleep, but the agitation caused by her sudden fright prevented me from inducing anything like unconsciousness. Being told, however, that there was only one small fragment of the tooth to remove, she allowed Mr. Brendon to attempt its removal in her waking state. There was however the usual manifestation of shrinking fear shewn by persons in the normal state, and the moment the instrument was brought to bear, she screamed loudly, and shewed every symptom of extreme suffering. The fang was now loosened from its socket, but did not come away with the instrument, and she refused to submit to any further effort, saying that she could not bear a repetition of such pain.

I requested the gentlemen to leave the room, and made the passes over her face for some minutes without however inducing unconsciousness. After a short time, Mr. Brendon and Mr. Bate returned into the room, and told her that the fang being loosened would now come away immediately, and that the operation would then be quite completed. She was with considerable difficulty induced once more to place herself in their hands; and Mr. Bate very speedily completed the difficult task of extracting the fang, not however without again eliciting loud cries from the poor girl. At the bottom of the fang was found a small abscess, which must have added greatly to the tenderness of the part, and increased the severity of the operation.

"This case is curious, as having been performed partly in the mesmeric state and partly in the waking condition, and a more remarkable contrast could not have been presented. At one period there were all the indications of utter unconsciousness—the muscular system relaxed—the nervous system in perfect repose. At the other, every symptom shewed the keenest susceptibility—the hands clenched—the limbs drawn up, and the most piercing screams uttered.

"Neither of the operators had ever before had a mesmeric subject under their hands. They were perfectly convinced of the entire unconsciousness of their patient whilst in the mesmeric state, and expressed their high gratification at having had the opportunity of witnessing and testing so remarkable a case.

"The operation was one of extreme difficulty, owing to the entire decay of the tooth, and had it not been conducted with great skill and judgment, the extraction could not have been accomplished.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"EDMUND FRY."

In a letter to me which accompanied the narrative, Mr. Fry writes:—

"You would have liked to have seen the case of tooth extraction. Many of its features were most curious; and a more triumphant case was certainly never seen. I wish that Brodie and Aston Key (under both of whose care I have been) could have been at my elbow, while the punch was digging away at the girl's jaw while she was asleep, and then presently after, when awake, to hear her shriek till one's ears rang again. It would have bothered them."

I entreat the combined refusing dentists to persevere. We can do without them. The ice is breaking. The fact of the weak editor of the *Medical Gazette*, Dr. Alfred Taylor, teacher at Guy's Hospital, noticing the Cherbourg case, even as he does, shews a change of weather: and a general thaw is certain, though it will be oppressive and dirty.

Before I conclude, let me inform the bustling, but only bustling, Dr. Forbes, that the narratives of this paper, and all the other splendid cures and operations in the various numbers of *The Zoist*, are *modern mesmerism*: and he would do well to sit still and coolly investigate the most elementary facts, if he is capable of investigation, instead of running about to exhibitions of clairvoyance and of advertizing his disappointments daily in the newspapers, under the false name of modern mesmerism, and stooping to puff off his wretched pamphlet with a respectable recommendation from the *Lancet*, written by Mr. Wakley's son, a mere boy, of whom the profession knows no more than of Dr. Forbes's own progeny. Let him listen to Dr. Esdaile.

"If the members of the medical profession wish to see and understand the effects of mesmerism on the body, the natural and rational mode is to attempt to develop them themselves in their own patients; and if they will take one tithe of the trouble I have been at, I can promise them very general success. Then the finest, as well as most striking, symptoms will be equally diagnostic to their practised eye, and their understandings will be left clear, and free to study and imitate the curative processes of nature, undisturbed by doubts and suspicions regarding the powers of observation and the honesty of others."

He has just published a letter in the *Athenæum* declaring he has detected a M^{lle}. Julie to be an impostor of a clairvoyante. Suppose he has. Is there therefore no clairvoyance? And if there is no clairvoyance, can no other mesmeric phenomena be true? Suppose because his patron declared the virtuous Lady Flora Hastings to be pregnant, I were to call Sir James Clark an impostor, a mere guesser of a physician on all occasions, would that be rational? And suppose Sir James Clark were so proved, would there be no such persons as scientific physicians? And if a diagnosis of pregnancy were impossible, would it prove all medical science to be unreal? Yet Dr. Forbes in the *Athenæum* of Feb. 28th, 1846, heading his paper with "*Mademoiselle Julie, or Witchcraft for the Aristocracy*," says, "it is well known that the two most striking and attractive DELUSIONS of recent times are homœopathy and MESMERISM." You unblushingly write this when *you know*

the host of indisputable and mighty recent facts published in *The Zoist*. Your conduct is very sad, and you calculate your own interest very badly.

"To those who may charitably think me mad," says Dr. Esdaile, "I only wish, for the sake of humanity, that they were equally rabid in their daily deeds, and the sooner they submit to be bitten the better; for voluntary inoculation is safer and pleasanter than FORCED contagion," p. 35.

My two mottos are from Lord Campbell, who, in perfect ignorance of what the word mesmerism means, has forgotten that he has assumed the character of a philosophical author and is not pleading a cause in a court of law, where too often the advocate's object is not truth but victory, bold assertion without reference to fact is thought clever, hard bullying words are poured into the ears of witnesses, and "divine philosophy" is unknown. The coarse and bad habits of the pleader still stick to him, and thus disfigure him in his new occupation.* He should remember the words of Bacon, whose life he has written,—

"That the inquiry of truth, which is the love-making, or wooing of it; the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it; and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it; is the sovereign good of human nature."

To which I will add, in the words of Dr. Esdaile,—

"That this highest gratification of humanity can only be attained by carefully training and exercising our intellect, to which the senses are only handmaids."

As your lordship presumes to give an opinion upon mesmerism before you have learnt what it is, I will further add from Dr. Esdaile, that,

"I would venture to recommend you to examine the evidence in support of it, as you would do in any other matter worth enquiring about; and I can confidently promise that you will be richly rewarded, and I should think that you could not be better employed."

* Sir Thomas Wilde, in arguing that Mr. Dyce Sombre was sane after I had given evidence of his insanity, said "It was his duty, as counsel for Mr. Sombre, to insist that whatever errors or follies he had been guilty of, he never was, and is not now, a lunatic, or incompetent to the management of his property or person. Men might shew their confidence in Dr. Elliotson, or believe in mesmerism, and escape a commission; but let them form peculiar habits and feelings, entertain a suspicion of their wife's fidelity, and they laboured under the delusions of insanity, and must be confined for life." *Morning Chronicle*, July 16, 1844.—"Dr. Elliotson, with his ideas respecting Mesmerism, was, in his opinion, quite as insane as Mr. Dyce Sombre."—*Times*, July 17th. Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, so far from gravely rebuking Sir Thomas Wilde for this foul language, began joking with him.

II. *Contributions to the Mathematics of Phrenology.* By
Mr. JAMES STRATON. Aberdeen.

In the preceding number of *The Zoist* (Vol. III., pp. 441—6), I offered a few particulars intended to elucidate more fully some of the points treated of in my "*Contributions to the Mathematics of Phrenology.*" In that number I confined myself chiefly to the measurement of the head as a whole, and the nature of average sizes. With the same views I now submit some additional particulars relating to the subsequent steps in the practice of observation.

Measurement of parts.—In measuring the head in separate portions or regions, the structure of the brain must be kept constantly in view, and care must be taken, first, not to include any part in one region which functionally belongs to another; and, secondly, that the whole mass of the brain be included as nearly as possible, in the first instance, in the sum of the parts; so that the same proof which certifies the absolute size of the head, may also certify that of its parts.

It is known that the brain is a fibrous structure; that the medulla oblongata (M, fig. 1) is a common centre from which the fibres radiate to all parts of the convoluted surface; and that the fibres from the centre to the surface of the brain, are part and parcel of the cerebral organs. Such being the case, each organ, or region composed of a bundle of organs, may be popularly described as originating in a point near M, fig. 1, and spreading outwards as it passes to the surface of the brain. Each region is then of a pyramidal or conical shape, the base being the convoluted surface shewn in the figures, and the apex being at M, fig. 1, 2, 3.

The surface of each region, *i.e.* the base or broad end of the conical mass, is bounded by an irregular or waving outline, corresponding to that of the bounding organs which compose the regions. It would be desirable to adhere to these boundaries in taking our measurements; but in the present state of our knowledge this is impracticable, if not impossible in most cases. Moreover it is desirable, nay, indispensable, that the parts measured have the shape of some regular geometrical figure, any part of which may be measured separately, if that shall be found necessary at any of the subsequent steps of our progress. Now the natural boundaries of each region being a waving line, it of course presents no regular figure, either round, oval, square, oblong, or triangular. It being impracticable then to adhere to the natural boundaries of the regions, it is believed that a sufficient approximation to accuracy is obtained if we measure the largest

possible portion, or nearly so, in each region to which a regular outline of surface can be easily and certainly found by observing anatomical points and lines; provided that the part measured always bears a proportional relation of size to the entire region. This is the plan which I have adopted. The superficial space of each region will therefore be a parallelogram, more or less long, more or less broad, according to the measurements of each individual case, and always below the actual size of the phrenological group measured. *Contributions*, p. 25.

I have adopted this plan the more willingly, perhaps, that it presents some peculiar advantages. It dispenses entirely with the ordinary "mapping" of the head, and thereby, first, enables those who know nothing of phrenology to execute the specified measurements as well as those who do; and, secondly, it enables the mere anatomist to examine, to verify, or refute, the great leading features of Gall's physiology of the brain, by systematic measurements of anatomically defined portions. There have not been wanting (if my memory serves me right) opponents who maintained that, apart from the "arbitrary mapping," phrenology had no support, and that anatomical measurements would overturn the whole. The results of such measurements applied to a tolerably extensive variety of cases are given in the *Contributions*, pp. 30 and 31; copies of all the casts there quoted may be seen, examined, measured, or purchased in every town in the kingdom, and I wish the gentlemen joy of such victory as they are justly entitled to claim. If my object in these researches had been to serve their cause only, I could have seen no alternative as yet but to acknowledge a very signal defeat.

The accompanying figures will make the proposed method of measuring the separate regions plain. Fig. 1 represents a lateral vertical section, fig. 2 a horizontal, and fig. 3 a transverse vertical section, of the head.

The ANTERIOR, or intellectual region, is

Bounded by 13, M, 22, fig. 1.

And 32, M, 32, fig. 2.

The parts not included are shewn between 9 and 32 on each side, fig. 2.

CORONAL, or moral region, is

Bounded by 13, M, 15, fig. 1.

And 19, M, 19, fig. 3.

The parts not measured lie between 12 and 19, fig. 3, on each side.

Fig. 1.

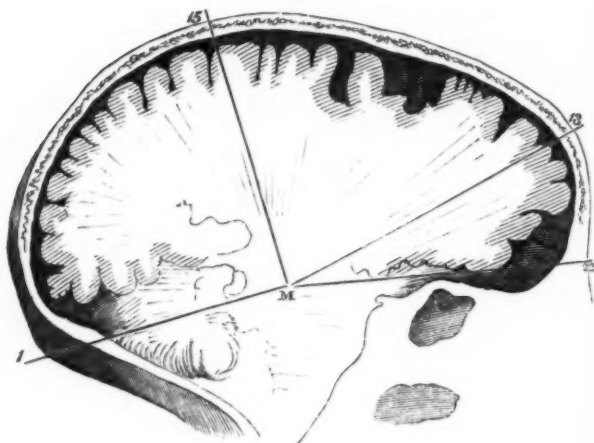


Fig. 2.

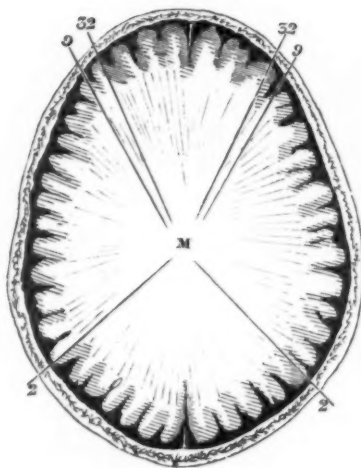
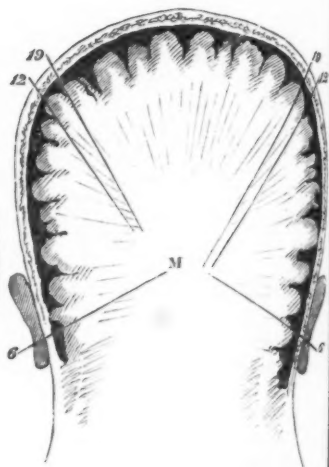


Fig. 3.



LATERAL, or aggressive region, is

Bounded by 9, M, 2, fig. 2.

And 12, M, 6, fig. 3.

The parts not measured lie below the line, 6, M, 6, fig. 3.

POSTERIOR, or domestic region, is

Bounded by 15, M, 1, fig. 1.

And 2, M, 2, fig. 2.

The part not measured lies below the line, M, 1, fig. 1.

The measurements of the regions are described in the *Contributions*, pp. 25 and 26. A cast of the head of Dr. Gall measured in this way, gives, in cubic inches,

Ant. 20, cor. 54, lat. 34, post. 46, add $\frac{1}{10}=15$, entire 169, proof 174

Before we can render the measurements intelligible and useful for the purpose of determining the size of individual organs and elucidating character, it is necessary to determine what sizes constitute an equal, normal, or model balance of head; because it is only when we know this that we understand whether any particular measurement, when obtained, is large, small, moderate, full, or whatever else it may be; whether any head measured is well balanced or otherwise, and where the balance is in preponderance or deficiency. In short, we must be able to understand, when the size of any region is determined, in what size of an equally balanced head the region in question would find its appropriate place. In the *Contributions*, p. 28, it is shewn that in an equally-balanced head (of any size, from the smallest to the largest), the regions measured in the manner specified are in the following proportion:—

The Anterior region is one tenth part of the head.

Coronal region is three tenths of the head.

Lateral region is two tenths of the head.

Posterior region is three tenths of the head.

Such being the case, it is a very easy matter when the measurements of the regions of any head are obtained, to discover what the balance of the head is. Thus: divide the cubic inches of the anterior region by 1, the lateral by 2, the coronal and posterior each by 3; annex a 0 to each of the quotients; they then represent the cubic inches of the corresponding model; or, in other words, multiply each quotient by 10, because it is a tenth part of the head required. Taking the previous example of Gall's head, we thus obtain:—

Anter. $20 \div 1 = 20$,	annex a 0=200	cubic inches	size of	cor. model.
Coron. $54 \div 3 = 18$	"	=180	"	"
Later. $34 \div 2 = 17$	"	=170	"	"
Poster. $46 \div 3 = 15$	"	=150	"	"

Absolute size of Dr. Gall's head, 174 cubic inches.

We thus complete the second step (the first is measuring the head as a whole, *Zoist*, Vol. III., pp. 442—4) in the process of estimating development, and now the individual peculiarities become apparent so far as the balance of the regions can exhibit them.

Up to this point the process is entirely mathematical, the sizes obtained are absolute or positive, and the figures (the number of cubic inches imperial standard) can be understood in one sense only, by all parties, at all times, and in all places, however widely separated their fields of observation may have ever been. Up to this point, then, uniformity of estimate, definite language or terms of size, the use of one clearly defined and fixed value of scale, is secured in practice. And farther, the terms of our scale being positive or absolute, comparison, or relative size, becomes obvious on a glance at the figures; not only as regards the different sizes of heads, but the different regions of any one head may be compared with the others of the *same* head, and with those of any other head whatever which has been measured in the same way.

The scale proposed (*Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 435), is a very simple modification of that in common use in this country. The terms 10, 20, 30, and so on up to 200 or higher, represent the cubic inches, or absolute size of the head, to which the mode of application cannot be misunderstood. But the application of the terms to express the size of the separate *regions* and individual *organs*, may require a brief explanation. There are two ways in which the sizes of parts may be expressed. First, by the inches and fractions which they really measure. This could easily be done—is done indeed in the first instance—with the regions, because we measure their size; but it is impracticable, if not impossible, to measure each individual organ. We have just seen, however, that to know the number of inches in any part or region of the head, is chiefly useful for our purpose, by leading us to the equally-balanced head to which the part corresponds. The force of this will be more fully perceived by looking again at the measurements of Dr. Gall's head. To see that the anterior region is 20 inches, the coronal 54, the posterior 36, and so on, as we have found, conveys little satisfactory meaning to the mind until the farther information is obtained, that 20

inches of an anterior region is that of an equally-balanced head of 200 inches; and so with the others: all is then plain, because the positive information conveyed furnishes a standard of comparison which renders the whole intelligible. This leads us to the second mode by which the size of parts may be stated,—that which we propose to adopt; namely, to designate the size of the regions and organs by that of the equally-balanced heads to which they respectively correspond.

Following this rule, we would say of the regions of Dr. Gall's head, that the

Anterior is 200,	that is,	"very large."
Coronal is 180,	"	"large."
Lateral is 170,	"	"rather large or large."
Posterior is 150,	"	"full or rather large."

Designating the individual organs in the same way, we would say,

Amativeness	80,	"small."
Adhesiveness	100,	"moderate."
Self-esteem	140,	"full."
Benevolence	160,	"rather large."

And so on with all the other organs.

For the sake of brevity, which is of some consequence in practice, the final 0 may either be inserted or omitted; it matters nothing which, provided it be distinctly understood and remembered, that 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, &c., means 80, 90, 100, 140, &c.; in other words, that the parts, whether regions or organs, to which these numbers are attached, are understood to be of the same size, as the same parts must be in an equal balance or model head of the dimensions indicated by the attached numbers. For the same reason (brevity), I would advise to discontinue the use of the words, "small," "large," &c., and use the figures only in the sense just explained.

We now come to the third step in the practice of observation; namely, to estimate the size of the individual organs. This is a very simple process, if the previous steps (measuring the head and the regions) have been executed with the requisite accuracy. The same term of the scale which expresses the size of the region (*i.e.* the model to which it belongs), expresses also the average size of the organs composing the region, and, as a matter of course, the size of the average organs in the region. It then remains for the eye to determine what organs in each region are above, and what below, and how much, that is, how many sizes either above or below, the average which has been mathematically determined; the range of eye being limited to one region at a time, and

guided by the mathematical average in determining the size of the other organs. It is presumed that, the eye being thus limited in its range and guided in its estimate, it will rarely happen that practised observers will differ in their opinion of the individual organs to the extent of one size.

My cast of Dr. Gall's head presents the following peculiarities:—

ANTERIOR reg. 20 inches, corresponding model and average organs, size 200, or 20.

Organs average size—Weight, Eventuality, and Time.

Organs one size above the average—Individuality, Form, Size, Locality, Language, and Causality; all 210, or 21. No organs in the region larger.

Organs one size below the average of the region—Number, Order, Tune, and Comparison; all 190, or 19.

Organs two sizes below the average—Colour, 180 or 18; none smaller.

CORONAL region, 180.

Average organs—Veneration, Conscientiousness, Wonder, Ideality, and Imitation; 180, or 18.

One size above the average of the region—Benevolence and Firmness; 190, or 19. None larger.

Organs one size below the average of the region—Hope and Cautiousness; 170, or 17. None smaller.

LATERAL region, 170.

Average—Acquisitiveness; 170, or 17.

Larger—Destructiveness and Secretiveness; 180, or 18.

Smaller—Constructiveness, 160, or 16; Combateness, 140, or 14.

POSTERIOR region, 150.

Average organs—none.

Larger—Amativeness, 180, or 18; Self-esteem, 170, or 17; Philoprogenitiveness and Concentrativeness, 160, or 16.

Smaller—Adhesiveness, 130, or 13; Love of Approbation, 140, or 14.

Arranged in the usual numerical order, the development will stand thus:—

1 Amativeness .. 18 or 180 mod.	12 Cautiousness .. 17 or 170 mod.
2 Philoprogenit. 16 160	13 Benevolence .. 19 190
3 Concentrative. 16 160	14 Veneration.... 18 180
4 Adhesiveness .. 14 140	15 Firmness 19 190
5 Combateness 14 140	16 Conscientious. 18 180
6 Destructiveness 18 180	17 Hope 17 170
7 Secretiveness .. 18 180	18 Wonder 18 180
8 Acquisitiveness 17 170	19 Ideality 18 180
9 Constructive... 16 160	20 Wit 17 170
10 Self-esteem .. 17 170	21 Imitation 18 180
11 Love of Appro. 14 140	22 Individuality .. 21 210

23 Form	21 or 210 mod.	30 Eventuality .	20 or 200 mod.
24 Size	21 210	31 Time	20 200
25 Weight	20 200	32 Tune	19 190
26 Colour	18 180	33 Language . .	21 210
27 Locality	21 210	34 Comparison .	19 190
28 Number	19 190	35 Causality . .	21 210
29 Order	19 190		

It is not meant that this is a correct development of Dr. Gall's head, for I am not certain whether the cast before me be correct or not. My present object is merely to exemplify the processes. Let it then be granted for the time that both the cast and the development are accurate. The development is now complete in the ordinary sense of the term, and all the organs of the head may be compared with each other, and with those of any other head whatever which has been estimated in the same way. The field of comparison being thus opened up to an extent which is only bounded by the human race, the greatest possible facility is afforded for elucidating development and character.

It will be seen, however, on referring to *The Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 444, that one step still remains to be accomplished before the elements of size (and power also of course) are placed in their true terms for comparison. It will there be seen that a large head (say 210 inches) contains more brain in proportion (30 inches, *i.e.* three sizes), than a small head (70 inches). And so it is with all the intermediate sizes. Now as the mental power must, *ceteris paribus*, be in proportion to the size of *brain*, it follows that the developments of the larger heads must be increased one, two, or three sizes, as the case may be, before their true relative size to the smaller heads be brought into view. I will now make this correction on Dr. Gall's development, and every experienced phrenologist will see at a glance the broad light which the change gives on the immense power manifested by large heads as compared with small.

Here is the development in the previous order and the briefest form, *i.e.* without the name of organ or final 0 to the sizes :

No. 1-21	No. 10-19	No. 19-21	No. 28-22
2-18	11-16	20-19	29-22
3-18	12-19	21-21	30-23
4-16	13-22	22-24	31-23
5-16	14-21	23-24	32-22
6-21	15-22	24-24	33-24
7-21	16-21	25-23	34-22
8-19	17-19	26-20	35-24
9-18	18-21	27-24	

* The cast from Gall's *living* head was taken by Mr. Deville, in the presence of Dr. Elliotson.—*Zoist*.

There is at least one other correction, which it may be necessary to make to some parts of some heads.

If it be the fact that mental power is more dependent on the grey matter of the convoluted surface than on the internal fibrous parts, and if that surface does not uniformly bear the same relative proportion to the central mass, then in every *abnormal* case a corresponding correction must be made. I am not in possession of the facts necessary to demonstrate whether such be really the case or not, and have only alluded to the question to keep it in view. It is in the anatomical theatre where it must be settled.

And now one remark in conclusion, on what must at first sight appear to many to be the tedious, troublesome nature of the proposed method of estimating development mathematically. I have repeatedly seen the cranium measured accurately as a whole, and in regions, at the first attempt, by parties who knew nothing of phrenology; and all my experience as yet warrants the statement, that four, five, or six lessons of an hour each, is sufficient to make any person of average talents acquainted with the system. But in this, as in everything else, extensive and careful practice alone can secure accuracy, ease, and confidence. See *Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 443.

JAMES STRATON.

III. *Cures of Chronic Deafness, Epileptic Fits, &c., with Mesmerism.* By Dr. BUXTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—In the number of *The Zoist* for October, 1845, you were pleased to record some of my cases of recovery by means of mesmerism.

The two following are, I conceive, remarkable both for the obstinate and generally hopeless nature of the diseases, and for the length of time required to bring them to a favourable termination. I regret that circumstances do not always admit of the name and address of the patients being given.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. BUXTON.

*Brownlow Street, Bedford Row,
23rd Feb., 1846.*

Miss S., æt. 30, a dress-maker, short, spare, pale, and of a nervous temperament, began mesmeric treatment on the

25th September, 1845. She had been very deaf for above nine years, and complained of constant loud noises in the head. She thought that the deafness had been caused by repeated colds, and by her brothers often startling her by bawling in her ears.

When with her, in order to make her hear, it was necessary to engage her full attention, to be near her, and speak clearly much above the ordinary tone of conversation. She had used Solomon's voice-conductors, but they only appeared to increase the deafness.

She had also been subject, for eight or nine years, to fits coming on at uncertain intervals, bearing the general characteristics of epilepsy, but unattended by the foaming at the mouth or subsequent coma; but during the last year had been almost free from them. These fits were attributable to very severe domestic trials.

She had had much advice and medicine from various medical men and aurists, but without any permanent benefit.

In July and August, 1844, she had a sharp attack of influenza, which left her in a state of great debility, and subject to severe pain in the left side of the head, giddiness, dimness of sight, especially affecting the left eye, and a feeling of numbness in the right arm and leg. As medicine and a tonic plan of treatment seemed of no avail, she was prevailed upon to go into the country for a fortnight; but, as soon as she returned, the symptoms again recurred in an aggravated form.

At this time her appetite was very indifferent; she had constantly severe pains in her sides, chest, loins, and between her shoulders; and had not known what refreshing or uninterrupted sleep was for nine years, being subject to dream exceedingly and to wake frightened. The bowels were regular, but menstruation was accompanied by acute suffering, and lasted for seven or eight days, but was scanty, and with intermissions.

The first time she was mesmerised, the eyes closed in seven minutes, a general tremor came over her, and she seemed to have much head-ache. If I left her the eyes opened, and she became much agitated. On waking her in three quarters of an hour, she was unconscious of having been to sleep, but felt as though she had been in fits, and the palms of her hands were moist, as was usual after the attacks.

Sept. 26th. Since her visit, has been very poorly, and passed a bad night, owing to head-ache and side-ache. Mesmerised as yesterday, and while in this state had several attacks of convulsions, with violent cardiac action and anxiety;

but on waking only remembered that she had had very great pain in the left side of the head. This was soon dispelled by transverse passes, blowing on the part, &c.

28th. Has felt exceedingly well since I saw her, having had long and sound rest at night, freedom from side-ache, and a good appetite. Her hearing is also somewhat better. From this time she very steadily improved, became clairvoyant by the 17th October, so as to predict her recovery from the fits by the end of March, stating that till then they would be frequent. She directed me to mesmerise her three times a week, for an hour each time, which was regularly performed. The attacks almost always occurred during the mesmeric state, and were generally more or less felt beforehand working about her, by causing pain in the head, side, or chest. Towards the end of October, I found that she responded to phreno-mesmerism.

In December her mother died after a month's illness. The exertion and exposure of nursing her, and the sorrow her death caused my patient, offered a slight check to her recovery; and in January she told me that she would have eleven more fits, the last to take place about the end of May, and that the hearing would not be perfectly restored till Christmas.

Till September she came to me twice a week, was able to predict the exact time the several attacks would befall her, and I was thus enabled to appoint the times of her visits, so that the fits should occur during her sleep, and by this plan prevented the pains always consequent on these attacks. Once or twice, when prevented being punctual by other engagements, I have found her in the predicted fit before being mesmerised.

So soon as February, menstruation had occurred without pain or debility, and much more copiously; and in September all other unpleasant symptoms had entirely disappeared, except partial deafness, and sometimes pain in the ears. Till Christmas she was mesmerised once a week, and I usually applied my hands to the ears for about five or ten minutes. This invariably removed pain, if present; and by lessening the noises in her head, improved the hearing.

In November and December it became gradually more and more difficult to induce sleep. Till then it had been easy to mesmerise her completely in a quarter of a minute, by fixing my eyes on her, by passes, or by my will, even when she was unconscious of any intention on my part to produce this effect: but on the 23rd of December it required steady passes for four or five minutes. She was then quite well, having a good colour, stout, and in every particular enjoying good

health, though perhaps still a little hard of hearing. In her sleep she told me it would do her good to come once or twice in February, as that month always tries her.

Feb. 16th. I observe scarcely any trace of her former deafness. She says the ears have been a little uneasy occasionally, but attributes this to cold. Otherwise is quite well. When I had mesmerised her, she told me that after one or two months it will not be in my power to send her to sleep at all.

Had not this patient had clairvoyance sufficient to predict her ultimate recovery, I believe that both the patient and myself would have been dispirited by the long-continued recurrence of fits without diminishing in severity, and have given up the treatment in despair. This case encouraged me in others not favoured with this power, and during the treatment of the following case.

Epilepsy.

Elizabeth Matthias, aged 33, married, and rather spare, living at No. 6, Little Windmill Street, Golden Square. One morning, about two years and a half before I saw her, she awoke much frightened by the screams of some children. She continued apparently well for a fortnight, when she had a fit which seized her while still asleep, about 3 or 4 o'clock, a.m.; and subsequently became subject to them at least two or three times a month. At the onset of the attack she would throw herself across the bed, and every muscle appear in a state of tension; the hands became rigidly clenched, as also the jaws; the eyes wide open and fixed; and this condition might last one or two hours, or even longer. After a short interval, a second, and even a third fit would sometimes come on, and then she would fall asleep, and on awaking know nothing of what had passed, till a soreness and pain all over her made her aware of having had a fit. These attacks increased both in severity and frequency, being worst soon after menstruation.

For these symptoms she applied to one public hospital, where cupping at the nape of the neck and opening medicines were prescribed; but on finding the disease gaining ground more rapidly after ten months' treatment, she went to a second, and then to a third of the neighbouring medical establishments, with equally fruitless results.

She first visited me on the 11th November, 1844. Her general health was then very indifferent; the appetite was bad, the tongue whitish, the bowels regular, menstruation attended with great pain in the hypogastrium and loins, last-

ing three or four days, and scanty; and she was subject to much leucorrhœa after the catamenia. The pulse was 88, and rather weak. She also complained of almost constant weight and heat at the vertex, which were worst in the morning.

As I placed myself before her, and fixed my eyes upon her's, before I had time to raise my hand and begin the passes, her eyes closed, the limbs became stiff, and the breathing laborious, and she soon passed into a deep sleep. At the end of half an hour, I woke her with some difficulty by transverse passes, and blowing on the eyes and forehead.

Nov. 15th. Mesmerised equally easily and thoroughly for nearly an hour. Since the 11th has had excellent nights, better than she has known for many months. She was now mesmerised twice or three times a week, and for about a month was free from fits, except one sharp attack of hysteria, to which she had been occasionally subject during the two previous years, but after this time the fits continued appearing frequently till the end of May.

Meanwhile, however, health and strength returned, her head-aches subsided, and the attacks did not try her so much. She took cold in February, her appetite became very indifferent, a severe and tight cough soon came on, with night sweats, and other signs of debility. These symptoms were soon removed by the use of pil. scillæ co. and ext. conii, with infus. calumbæ. Soon after this she became able to answer questions a little while asleep, and told me that had she attended regularly, she would have been cured by the end of April, but now this would not be the case before the middle of May. After this period, she was mesmerised about once or twice a week. It was again necessary in April to have recourse to the calumba and cough pills, and in May still finding her losing flesh, subject to nocturnal perspirations and a loose cough, I gave her m. x. of naphtha,* *terdie*, which she continued to take for five weeks with considerable benefit.

In June, after great exertions on a very hot day, and imprudently drinking some beer to quench her thirst, she had three or four sharp fits. She soon after gave up mesmerism, finding herself quite well, free from head-ache, leucorrhœa, and from pain at the times of the catamenia, having gained flesh and colour, and again enjoying a healthy condition of intellect and memory, both which had been impaired by her disease.

To this account I must add that in the middle of July she went to her native country, Wales, and towards the end

* Hastings. *Pulmonary Consumption successfully treated with Naphtha.* Second Edition; Churchill, London, 1845.

of the month had a slight fit, and others on the 12th Sept. and 14th Oct., attributable to anxiety.

In January, 1846, the former symptoms of cough, nocturnal perspirations, and anorexia, reappeared, but were again subdued by the pills and calumba, and she has since been well in all respects.

She still appears as susceptible of mesmeric influence as formerly, as she passed into the mesmeric state as quickly as at first upon my mesmerising her once in January.

The following case has required much less time to effect recovery, and is interesting from the tender age of the patient.

Herbert —, aged 20 months, had been subject since birth to very great restlessness and wakefulness night and day, and great irritability and violence of temper, shewn by loud and long-continued screaming, tearing his mother's or nurse's caps and dress, scratching their faces and hands severely, and striking them without even the least provocation; but after the lapse of one or two hours would appear for a short time gentle and affectionate.

These symptoms doubtless originated in his mother's having had very much anxiety and nursing to undergo shortly before his birth. She lost a child with similar symptoms a few years ago, and had never entertained the least hope of rearing this one.

About the middle of last November, he had a mild attack of scarlet fever, but owing to his raving fits and restlessness was exposed to cold, and swelling of the throat and general anasarca came on. These complaints gave way under the use of diuretics and mild aperients, but the previous symptoms increased considerably, and he was therefore given a little syrup of poppies, which stupified him for a while, but effected no permanent change.

11th Dec., 1845. For the last week the right arm has hung helpless at his side, and if any one attempts to move or touch him, he begins to scream violently. He has also frequently put his hand to the left side of his head, expressing pain there. The left ear has discharged a little during the last three days. His tongue is clean, and though the bowels are sluggish, the appetite is good, and the urine now passes freely.

I mesmerised him at 11 a.m. by placing him on my knee, allowing him to sit upright, and made the passes both before and behind him. As soon as I took him, he screamed and struggled most violently to go to his mother, but in about

four minutes became tranquil, and the eyes closed, though he did not sleep. I returned him to his mother in about twenty minutes. Having had cough and hoarseness, he was given a little antimonial wine and tinct. conii three or four times a day.

12th. Has been rather quieter since. Mesmerised as yesterday, and this treatment was continued daily at uncertain times and with similar effects. For some days the left ear discharged offensively. The bowels soon became regular.

On the 19th the shoulder had swelled to a great degree, distended veins were distributed over the part, which assumed the appearance of a white swelling of the knee. Linseed-meal poultices were ordered, and a teaspoonful of cod-liver oil* was given three times a day. The poultices being found too heavy for the very tender state of the shoulder, were soon exchanged for carrot, and afterwards starch poultices.

Notwithstanding the increase of the swelling, and its tender and painful condition, the little patient continued to improve, the nights were quiet, his appetite keener, and he began to gain flesh; and on the night of the 10th, the tumor burst, just under the acromion process, and discharged a large quantity of healthy pus, which smelt strongly of the oil he had been taking.

I then gave him for about a week ferri sesqui-oxydi gr. iss bis die, and he rapidly acquired strength and health under these means.

Since the 19th I have mesmerised him about every other day, generally about nine in the evening, as I had become capable of inducing sleep; and when owing to other engagements I have been prevented seeing him for four or five days, he has shewn unequivocal tendency to his former irritability of temper and wakefulness. I feel no doubt, however, of being able to perfect his cure.

The difference in him is very striking; from an emaciated, ill-tempered, wayward infant, he is now lively and playful, can nearly walk alone, and though growing very fast, is tolerably stout.

I have met with two or three cases which shewed great susceptibility of mesmeric agency. Some who were poorly derived immediate benefit, and others were subjected to the unexpected circumstance of an afternoon nap.

One of these persons was a young lady who came to see a friend of her's mesmerised. No sooner was he affected than her eyelids began to flutter, although sitting about three

* Bennett on the *Oleum Jecoris Aselli*. Highley, London, 1841.

yards off, and by a couple of passes she went into a clairvoyant state. By the application of my hand I removed pain from the chest and side, from which she had suffered for some days, and were attributable to cold and cough, and I woke her in about an hour, when she expressed herself much refreshed.

Her sister, who is some years her senior, also finds it difficult to keep awake in a room where mesmerism is going on, and like her finds great benefit from it when poorly.

Herbert's mother cannot stay in the room during mesmerism, without feeling great weight in the forehead and over the eyes, with great drowsiness, which she does not lose till she has had one or two hour's sleep. This effect has always occurred whether she has diverted her thoughts and attention to work or otherwise, and even when she has received the child from me after the mesmerism. She has not had occasion to try its use as a remedy.

Several other persons when present during the mesmerism, have experienced a strong disposition to sleep, which has not left them till the next day.

IV. *Cures of severe Female Chronic Ailments, with Mesmerism.* By Mr. DECIMUS HANDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

22, Thayer Street,
Manchester Square.

SIR,—In the last number of your valuable publication, you deemed the few facts I had contributed respecting the sanativeness of my mesmeric touch of sufficient importance to justify their insertion. I then mentioned I could furnish some other cases of equal interest (in my opinion), though differing in the method of procedure; accordingly I now have the pleasure of transmitting the following for your perusal, and shall feel gratified if their publication in your April number may in any measure promote the extension of mesmerism, which only requires to be more bruited to become universal, at least amongst the suffering and afflicted; and also offers a delightful study connected with phrenology to the more cultivated minds of the educated and studious. So far from the fanaticism of imputing its beneficial results to satanic agency, it will be found one of those *choice blessings* which ought to raise the heart in pious gratitude to the great giver of all our good.

I remain, Sir, with esteem,

Yours, respectfully,

DECIMUS HANDS.

March 11th, 1846.

P.S. You will find my statement of Mrs. Osborne's illness accompanied by her own account, which necessarily embraces a much longer period than that of my acquaintance and attendance.

March 12th, 1846. During the months of July and August last year, I was in occasional attendance on Mrs. Osborne, residing at 273, Oxford Street, who was then in a state of pregnancy for the third time, and affected with more than usual sickness. She was likewise suffering from extreme nervousness and continual alarm and apprehension, as if in expectation of some great calamity or misfortune; accompanied by much fearful anxiety as to her confinement. I was obliged to cheer her frequently with repeated assurances of all ultimately being brought to a favourable issue; as twenty years' practice and experience warranted me to believe probable, and as she had proved on former occasions.

On the 25th of August, however, I was sent for, as she had become much more seriously alarmed, from an utter incapability of retaining either fluids or solids on the stomach; the smallest pills and even water were rejected. Soda water, though taken by a teaspoonful at a time, yet, after swallowing a few, was likewise rejected. Under such circumstances, the dejection increased, and she lost flesh to a great extent. The cough that had been troublesome from the commencement, now augmented, which induced me, on the 7th of November, to take a few ounces of blood, having previously *very slightly* mesmerised her.

On the 8th, a physician saw the patient with me, approved of what I had done, and said he thought she MIGHT do well; but, considering all the prevailing symptoms, gave a cautious prognosis indicative of the existence of danger.

This state of things continued till the 14th, varying but little; sometimes apparently better, at other times not so well; still there was no real alteration in the disease, no remission of the sickness. I became very anxious about her, when, in the night of the 14th, I was called up to go to her. I found her very ill, in the arms of her servant, being carried about the room. I had her removed from her ordinary bedroom to the drawing-room, which was larger and loftier, and where the temperature could be more easily regulated; and at 5 o'clock I went to and brought my brother with me, wishing him to see Mrs. Osborne, and to consult him as he had visited her with me a few times previously. He proposed our going back to Ellen Dawson, who was fortunately staying that night at his house. We did so; she was called up, and came down to us very shortly afterwards.

He asked her to travel with him to see a patient. She consented, and he took her hand and conducted her to Oxford Street. (It must be remembered that this was an ideal walk, as we were in my brother's house in Duke Street, and she was travelling mesmerically.) On her supposed arrival at the house, he made her give a minute description of it, to be certain she was correct. She described everything most accurately, and on entering the shop said there was a staircase with a brass banister descending to the cellar, which my brother had not observed, but knew it to be right. He then desired her to look for the staircase leading up to the room where the patient was. She said, "I see it." He told her to go and seek her; she now accordingly entered the room, described it distinctly, as well as the person of the lady, and proceeded to relate all the symptoms of the case with the most surprising minuteness and fidelity. Had I never before given credit to mesmerism and clairvoyance, I could not have resisted such convincing proof as was now evidenced. We asked her what was to be done: she said she must be mesmerised, or she would die, and she must take quinine; that her left lung was so changed, nothing else could restore it.

But here arose a difficulty. How could we obtain the patient's consent, her prejudice being very great against mesmerism, believing it to proceed from satanic agency? Ellen said, my brother should place his hand on her head, and with the other hand take her's, as if feeling her pulse; and that a current would thus be produced which would effect much. We then left Ellen, and returned to Oxford Street.

By this time it was near eight o'clock on the 15th. My brother did exactly as Ellen had directed. There seemed to be produced great tranquillity, but no sleep; and as all other means had likewise failed to obtain so desirable an effect, poor Mrs. Osborne became dreadfully exhausted and fatigued from constant coughing, an extensive expectoration, and sleepless nights. The case appeared hopeless, and she gave herself up to die. My feelings were most painful, having been acquainted with her for years, and attended her in her previous confinements, and witnessed all her sufferings. There had grown up an intimacy and friendship, which generally subsists between a professional person and his patients; consequently the respect and attachment I felt towards this lady made me more than usually anxious. I now considered it my duty to prepare Mr. Osborne for the but too-probable fatal termination of her illness, either by immediate death or consumption.

On or about the 25th of November, I was surprised and

much delighted by Mrs. Osborne's proposing to me the question of what I thought mesmerism would do for her? Of course I hesitated not one moment (remembering Ellen's opinion) to express my belief of its proving beneficial, and dwelt much on the good effects I had obtained from employing it. She then became anxious to have it tried immediately. I complied apparently to satisfy her, but as Ellen had named my brother, I preferred asking him. Accordingly that evening he mesmerised her, and though he did not produce sleep at the time, she slept after he left and was much refreshed. The quinine which had been ordered by Ellen not having been retained on the stomach, I had substituted very small doses of ammonia in solution with beneficial results, and she continued to take it as required, but from this time it was but seldom given, for now she retained food and fluids, and only had need occasionally of a mild aperient. Still the expectoration continued, and the matter was of such a character, accompanied with so much dullness throughout the left lung, that I was justified in fearing consumption had already set in, notwithstanding Ellen's assurances that she would get well, and those of my brother, who, confiding entirely in her knowledge, constantly encouraged the patient and her friends by prognosticating her complete restoration. He ceased mesmerising her after the first week, and I became her sole mesmeriser. A few weeks afterwards she was enabled to go out, and on Christmas-day she went to see a friend in the same street.

I happened to call at the time she was absent, and she was not mesmerised that day. She had a sleepless night, and in consequence I believe of that one omission, had a relapse and was attacked with spasms of the heart. She complained of this for several days, and asked me if I thought the spinal support she had formerly from Mr. Aymesbury would be serviceable.

I made a stethoscopic examination of the heart, and heard distinctly the bruit de soufflet in the left ventricle, and I determined to ask Dr. Elliotson to see her on the first opportunity; but the next night while mesmerising, (which I did by placing my fingers on the one side and my thumb on the other, so as to feel the pulsation of the arteries of the thyroid cartilage,) she suddenly cried out with the pain of her heart. It then occurred to me for the first time that I might succeed in removing it, as I had done in other instances, by the simple application of my hand to the affected part. I then placed my hand on the region of the heart, when to her great surprise and delight, as well as that of her husband who was present,

the pain quite left that place and removed to the ulnar nerve at the bend of the elbow. I put the extremities of my fingers in contact with the spot, and drawing them gently and slowly down the arm and hand drew it out with a sudden jerk, and left her quite free from any uncomfortableness.

I saw Dr. Elliotson the next day, and spoke of it to him: with his accustomed kindness he accompanied me to visit the patient. We found her comparatively well, for she had no longer any suffering. I had feared structural disease, but the doctor declared it to be only functional, caused by irregular contraction of some of the fibres of the left ventricle. I was a little surprised that he did not hear the sound that was so audible the previous night.

I continued to mesmerise her for some time, occasionally missing a night, but she was always sure not to sleep that night. I then thought of Mr. Osborne's trying, and he succeeded when I ceased, and she continued improving till her health was quite reëstablished, when mesmerism failed to produce any effect. She now sleeps well without it, far better than she had done for years. A short time since she had a cold and could not sleep, when Mr. Osborne tried again to mesmerise her, and she again felt its influence till the cold was gone, and then it lost its power as before.

"Oxford Street,

"February 6th, 1846.

"Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in sending you the following particulars of my illness: I have committed to paper all that I can remember of my many years of severe suffering. Had you not expressed such a wish, I think it would have been no less a duty to many of my suffering fellow-creatures, who may be benefitted through the knowledge of the means made use of for my astonishing recovery. Persons seeing me now for the first time will hardly believe the acute pain and severe illness I have borne for so many years of my life.

"When I was only nineteen years of age, I was attacked by typhus fever, and ever since my recovery from that illness I have suffered continually from ill health, never having regained my former strength. I was shortly afterwards seized with inflammation of the lungs, followed by a relapse, which so weakened me that my medical attendant and my friends were alarmed at the apparent symptoms of approaching consumption. I continued in this weak state nearly a year, sometimes feeling better and at other times worse, when having taken a long walk, which overtired me and brought on an

extraordinary kind of inflammation of the bowels, I was so reduced as to cause the spine and almost all the other organs to be affected. I was then attended by another doctor, who continued his visits for some months but without my deriving any benefit; indeed I became rapidly weaker, insomuch that half an hour's sitting up was sufficient to weary me. This gentleman advised my coming to London to consult Mr. Aymesbury, who recommended his spine support, from which I benefitted greatly for a time, when I discontinued its use.

"I was married soon after, and almost immediately became pregnant; and during the whole period till my confinement, I never was one hour free from suffering and pain, either bodily or mental, as my nerves were then so weakened that I was afraid almost of my own shadow, never getting any rest to refresh me; consequently I felt nearly worn out by the time of my confinement, and even after I had recovered from that, my general health was not ameliorated, nor was I less nervous; in fact, I think I was worse. Fifteen months later I was confined of my second child, having suffered during my pregnancy exactly as I had on the previous occasion, nor did I obtain more rest after its birth than I had after that of the first. I was so weak as to find my life almost a burden, when you, dear Sir, advised me (having attended me in both my confinements) to try the sea-side, which I did in the early part of last summer, but without deriving the benefit we anticipated.

"I now nearly despaired of ever recovering health or strength sufficient to fulfil the duties of my station as a wife. About this time you will remember my having a violent attack of inflammation on the lungs, attended with acute pain of the heart, to which I had been subject ever since the commencement of my illness at the age of nineteen. The physician who attended me with yourself, agreed with you in pronouncing me to be in a very precarious state. I continued thus for some days, when you brought your brother to visit me, and you expressed a wish I should consult another physician; this I declined, feeling perfectly satisfied with the attendance I had already. However, I at last yielded to the solicitations of my husband, and promised to comply the next day if I felt no better. When it suddenly occurred to me (thinking myself past cure), could mesmerism do anything for me? I had never had faith in it previously: knowing, however, that you practised it, I asked you what was your opinion, and you said it might give me a chance, but you did not urge it. I then felt a great desire it should be tried immediately, and you very kindly complied with my

request. I now need only add, that from that moment I began to get better. I slept soundly all night, ate heartily at dinner the next day, and felt quite a different creature. Three months have now elapsed since that night when I was first mesmerised. I still continue well, *far better than I have been for years*; and notwithstanding my being again in the family way, I sleep well every night, have lost my dreadful nervousness, and never suffer from sickness. *I am a wonder to myself and to all around me.* I still continue to be mesmerised, and do not intend to cease till after my confinement, as I feel such full assurance of its efficacy.

"It is my earnest wish that my case may be published, convinced of the benefit it must confer on all who from their acquaintance with it may be induced to try mesmerism to relieve their suffering. Any further information that I can give relative to my long-protracted painful illness and subsequent recovery, I shall readily give with pleasure, in answer either to written or personal enquiry.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Your obliged,

"M. A. OSBORNE."

2. Disease of the Uterus.

Another case of severe suffering has been, I am happy to say, completely relieved; and, as the poor woman expresses herself, I have done her as much good as if I had given her an estate. Had she possessed one when I first saw her, I am sure she could not have derived much pleasure from it. In the month of January this year, I received a visit from a philanthropic gentleman, Mr. Briggs, of Nottingham Place, who delights in going about to do good to the poor and suffering. He came to ask me to see this poor woman, Mrs. Donnelly, living in little Coram Street, and if I thought mesmerism would be beneficial, then to attend her professionally.

I went the same day, found her in bed, pale, languid, not able to sit up; suffering from disease and poverty, and dependent principally on the benevolence of Mr. Briggs for all she required. Her illness was ulceration of the uterus, proceeding from an injury received two years previously. It had been neglected at first, as she expected shortly to be confined; and it was not till some months after the child was born, that she was obliged to get a letter of recommendation as out-patient of the University College Hospital. At first she was obliged to go there in a coach, which by the kindness of the aforesaid gentleman she was enabled to do. She continued to attend the hospital regularly every Friday for five

months, under the care of Dr. Murphy, the Professor of Midwifery, who at length declared that *an operation was necessary, and that nothing more could be done for her without*. To this she would not submit, and consequently returned no more to the hospital. This was in the year 1843. Since that time she has had no farther medical advice or attendance, except in another confinement in December, 1844. At the end of last year, she was much alarmed by a fire which broke out in a house adjoining the one she resided in. This fright increased her illness. I found her in much pain the day I called (Jan. 14), and proceeded to mesmerise her: she slept for half an hour. The next day I missed; but the following one she slept four hours and a half. I continued almost daily to visit her. She slept each time, with this difference only, that after that long sleep it each day became shorter and shorter, till at last she awoke as soon as I left the room. In all I mesmerised her eighteen times, and she is at the present moment *perfectly recovered*.

3. While attending the mother, Mr. Briggs directed my attention to one of her children, a girl of about ten years of age, of a very delicate and sickly appearance. I found her suffering from prostration of all the powers of life, great debility of body, pallor and sallowness of countenance, emaciation, and a troublesome cough. After mesmerising her five or six times, her *restoration to health was completed* without the aid of any medicine.

V. *Report of an Examination of a Case of Clairvoyance at Plymouth before a Committee.* By Mr. EDMUND FRAY. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

Plymouth, March 8th, 1846.

My dear Sir,—I have great pleasure in placing at your disposal the enclosed narrative of the committee of investigation at my house. I hope it may serve the purpose of stimulating to further enquiry, and may suggest one or two useful hints in the conduct of future experiments.

I am, my dear Sir,
Very faithfully yours,
EDMUND FRAY.

J. Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Sir,—I beg to present you with the following particulars of a case of clairvoyance tested before a committee of twelve

gentlemen of this town, the results of which were highly satisfactory. It is to be regretted that mesmeric subjects who manifest these phenomena are not more frequently submitted to examinations conducted with the same *dispassionate* care. I shall be particular in giving the details of this examination, because I believe it formed a striking contrast to the scenes of disturbed and angry excitement which have too frequently accompanied the private as well as public displays of clairvoyance.

Many very successful and important cases of mesmerism have been conducted in Plymouth, and considerable attention and interest have been drawn to the subject, mingled with the usual display of scepticism as to the higher phenomena, particularly of clairvoyance. Several lectures have been delivered upon the subject at the Athenæum, the Mechanics' Institute, and elsewhere; and discussions, sometimes of a very stormy character, have followed the lectures. A lecture was delivered at the Central Hall, by Mr. Lundie, on the 29th of January, in the course of which he alluded to charges of fraud and imposture made against him by one of our newspapers, *The Plymouth Journal*; and in reply to those charges he offered to submit one of his subjects (the integrity of whose case had been violently and coarsely assailed by the journal) to the private examination of a committee of twelve gentlemen, who should be at liberty to submit him to any tests they thought proper. A gentleman of high respectability in the town, who was known to be extremely sceptical on the subject, immediately rose and said, that if such a committee was formed, and the boy manifested clairvoyance to their satisfaction, he would give five pounds to be distributed to any of the public charities of the town. The five pounds were deposited, and the next day a committee was chosen; the following rules being drawn up to govern the conduct of the experiment.

First.—That twelve persons be enrolled as a committee to witness the experiments.

Second.—That this being a private meeting, no visitor shall be allowed to enter without a promise that he shall only publish such a report as may be sanctioned by the chairman.

Third.—That the experiment shall be conducted in the following manner:—After the subject is placed in the mesmeric state, his eyes shall be covered with slips of plaster, and a square piece of plaster shall afterwards be placed entirely over the whole.

- Fourth.*—The gentleman who deposits the five pounds shall be at liberty to provide any printed papers or books, not exceeding three, which shall be handed to the mesmeriser, and shall be opened by him, and placed before the subject, who shall be allowed ten minutes to read each.
- Fifth.*—That a chairman and two scrutineers shall be appointed, who shall be at liberty to give any instructions respecting the application of the plasters, and keeping them fast during the whole experiment.
- Sixth.*—That the opinions of the scrutineers only be first taken as to the result of the experiment. Should there be any difference of opinion between them, the chairman shall be requested to take the opinion of those present by vote; the names of each being taken in writing, and if equal, the chairman to have the casting vote.
- Seventh.*—That all conversation respecting the experiment shall be carried on before and after the experiment, and not in the presence of the subject. No remarks to be made during the experiment except by the scrutineers.
- Eighth.*—Should any of the dissentients wish to express the reasons of their dissent, they will be at liberty to do so, in writing, below the statement sanctioned by the chairman.

The committee consisted of the following gentlemen:—Major Fraser, Mr. W. C. Perry, Mr. J. Latimer, Mr. W. Hunt, Mr. Dobb, Mr. Milroy, Mr. McCullum, Mr. Minards, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Norrington, Mr. Libby, Mr. Towson, Mr. Croyden, Mr. E. Fry.

These gentlemen assembled at the house of Mr. E. Fry on Wednesday morning the 4th of February at 10 o'clock. Mr. W. C. Perry was requested to act as chairman to the committee, and Mr. Towson and Mr. Croyden were appointed as scrutineers. It was suggested that the experiment would be more satisfactory if Mr. Lundie were not in the room, as his absence would effectually destroy the imputation of collusion. Mr. Lundie readily acceded to this request, and placed his subject at the entire disposal of the committee; indeed his conduct throughout the transaction was that of a man honestly desirous of the fair elucidation of truth. Mr. E. Fry was requested by the committee to conduct the experiments, which he did; never having before attempted to mesmerise the boy upon whose clairvoyant powers the committee were to adjudicate. The plan of proceedings was then discussed, and it was resolved that no person should be allowed

to touch the mesmerised boy except the mesmeriser; that the scrutineers should place themselves one on each side of the boy, and watch minutely the whole case, giving whatever instructions they might deem necessary for the most effectual security of the plasters, and keeping them fast during the whole experiment. Should any of the committee wish to add any suggestions, they were to do so in writing, which was to be communicated by the chairman or scrutineers to the mesmeriser.

The scrutineers then proceeded to cut up a number of slips of adhesive plaster spread on linen, about three eighths of an inch in width and two inches long. They also cut two square pieces, sufficiently large to cover the whole region of each eye. These preparations having been completed, the boy, Thomas Laycock, a bright intelligent-looking youth, about 15 years of age, was brought into the room, and in about three minutes he was thrown into the mesmeric sleep by Mr. E. Fry. The passes were continued for a short time to deepen the influence, when Mr. F. lifted the boy's eyelids; the pupils of the eye were turned upward, only the white of the eyeball being visible. He was then asked if he could tell how many persons there were in the room; when after apparently counting with his fingers he answered, giving one less than the right number. He individualized two or three of the committee correctly, but pointed in the wrong direction when naming one gentleman. The passes were again continued for a few minutes, and the organs of Firmness and Self-esteem excited, the results of which were very striking. He drew himself up in his chair, folded his arms, stamped his foot, and assumed the most determined air. Mr. Fry now drew from his pocket a slip of paper which he had previously cut from a posting-bill, on which the word "Prospect" was printed in bold type; this he breathed upon and handed to the boy, asking him if he could read it. The moment he took it in his hand he pronounced the word, and immediately after he read with equal readiness a second slip containing the words "Chemist and Druggist." His eyes were fast closed, and the scrutineers, who were watching him closely, failed to detect any effort on his part to unclothe the lids. He was also asked if he could see and describe the table-cover before him, which he did correctly. These trials were made by Mr. Fry to ascertain if the boy was in a right state to apply the tests, and he now stated that he was ready to apply the plasters, which he did, first placing the slips longitudinally and horizontally so as to form a complete casing over each eye; and as the plasters were warmed before applying

them, they adhered closely to every part. When the scrutineers were satisfied that a sufficient number of slips had been applied, the square pieces were put on, fitting closely over the whole, and additional slips were then applied covering the edges of the square pieces. Wherever the scrutineers, or any of the committee, pointed to a spot to be covered, Mr. Fry immediately applied a plaster, until the scrutineers declared themselves perfectly satisfied that the eyes were effectually secured. The process of plastering occupied about twenty-five minutes. A few passes were made, and the depositor of the five pounds then produced a paper which no one in the room had previously seen. This was handed to the mesmeriser, who held it between his hands for a few seconds, and breathed upon it; he then placed it in the boy's hands, desiring him to read it. Laycock placed it on the table before him, passed his hands over it, and almost immediately read, "Plymouth and South Devon Savings Bank," which he said was printed in red ink, and then flung the paper from him. He was perfectly correct—the paper being a receipt form from the savings bank, and printed in red ink. In about five minutes a second paper was placed in his hands. It seemed to require greater effort for him to read this. He appeared to concentrate his attention upon it, and there was a rapid vibratory motion of the muscles above the eye. The scrutineers kept a close watch upon the fastenings, and if there was the least indication of one of the slips of plaster loosening, it was immediately pressed closely down by the mesmeriser. In about four minutes the boy pronounced the date quite correctly, and presently after spelt the word "Sutton," and then read on, "Harbour and Dock Company." He said that this was all printed black, which was incorrect: the date was written in black, but the words were printed in blue. He seemed much fatigued after reading this; his head drooped upon his shoulders, and his muscular system became completely relaxed. Passes were again made over him, and the organ of Firmness excited. In a few minutes a third paper was placed in his hand, part of a druggist's hand-bill. The effort required to read this appeared to be much greater than for either of the preceding papers, and it was nearly ten minutes before he made out any part of it. At length he pointed to and pronounced the words, "Genuine Medicines," immediately throwing away the paper, and screwing up his features and limbs, crying out, "Oh! the nasty stuff—the filthy salts; how I hate them;" and he shuddered violently. He was quieted by a few passes, and requested to read the bill again. He was very unwilling to handle it, and said that

his neck gave him great pain. He was told that this was the last paper he would have to read, and after some hesitation he renewed his efforts, and soon pointed to the printed figure of a hand, (a small note of observation,) which he described correctly; he then read the word "Leeches." The moment he pronounced this word, he dashed the paper away, became more violently excited than before, and manifested the greatest disgust. It required considerable care and attention on the part of his mesmeriser to quiet him.

The conditions having now been fulfilled, the experiments were virtually concluded; but several of the committee were very desirous that the boy should make one more effort. Mr. Fry suggested the impropriety of any further trial, as the boy had been distinctly told that his previous effort should be the last, and he thought it desirable always to keep perfect faith with subjects in the mesmeric state. He however asked the lad whether he would oblige the committee by reading one other paper, and after some difficulty he consented to do so, and a £5 Bank of England note was placed in his hands. He said directly, "Oh this is the best that I have had yet. I would not hurt this for a pound." He spread it on the table before him, passed his hands over it, and soon pointed to the number, the two first figures of which he easily made out, but was some minutes before he read the whole, which however he accomplished quite correctly, together with the date and value of the note. He now complained of great pain across the neck and down the spine, and the committee declared the experiments to be concluded. It was requested that the pieces of strapping might be removed singly, that the committee might observe when the upper pieces were removed whether the under slips remained firmly attached to the skin. This was done, and although three or four of the upper slips had become somewhat loosened, the square pieces and all the under slips were found securely fastened; indeed, when the whole were removed, and the boy was wakened out of the mesmeric sleep, *it was with difficulty that he could open his eyes at all, so firmly had the lashes been fastened together.* He was asked if he knew what had taken place whilst he had been before the committee, and he stated that he was quite unconscious of what had been done. He was then sent out of the room, and in accordance with the regulations, the scrutineers were first called upon to give their decision. Mr. Towson stated that as scrutineer he had watched the case as scrupulously as he possibly could, and that he had entirely failed to discover any means by which the boy could have

evaded the precautions taken, and he must pronounce the experiment to have been successful.

Mr. Towson was known to have been a decided sceptic in reference to mesmeric clairvoyance; one of the committee therefore asked him whether he meant now to say that he believed that the boy had read by the exercise of that faculty. Mr. Towson said that he must decline committing himself to that opinion. He conceived that, as scrutineer, his duty had simply been to watch the case, and see that every precaution was taken to secure the effectual fastening of the boy's eyes. He had done so to the best of his ability. He had lain down on the floor that he might watch the under parts of the strapping, and he must say that he had been unable to detect any opening by which ordinary vision could be exercised. He pronounced, therefore, that the conditions required by the committee in this case had been fulfilled, and that the money had been gained for the charities. Some further endeavour was made by one or two gentlemen to induce a more decided expression of opinion from Mr. Towson, as to his belief or disbelief of clairvoyance, but he positively declined to make any such statement.

Mr. Croyden was then applied to for his opinion. He stated, that he too had watched the case with all possible care; that at one time he thought the plasters appeared to be loosening, but on examining closely he found that it was only the superficial slips which had moved, the under plasters adhered closely to every part. He was thoroughly convinced that the boy could not see in the ordinary way, and he must pronounce the case to have been entirely successful.

Mr. Towson and Mr. Croyden are both well known in the neighbourhood as practical scientific men, and for the highest integrity of character. Mr. Towson was very sceptical on the subject of mesmerism, Mr. Croyden was experimentally acquainted with it. Whilst the scrutineers were delivering their opinions, two of the committee were obliged to leave; but before quitting the room, they expressed their opinion that the case had been perfectly successful. After the scrutineers had delivered their judgment, the chairman was requested to take the opinions of the committee individually, which he did; when seven gentlemen expressed their entire satisfaction that the experiment had succeeded, and two gentlemen voted against that decision. It is however worthy of remark, that these two gentlemen had committed themselves to a strong public opposition to clairvoyance; whereas all those who came to the committee unfettered by previous

judgment, expressed their thorough conviction that the case brought before them was a genuine one, and recorded their votes to that effect. The five pounds were awarded as follows :

Devon and Cornwall Hospital . . .	£2
Plymouth Eye Infirmary	£1
Ditto Lying-in Institution	£1

And one pound was given to Thomas Laycock for his attendance, but no previous intimation had been given to him that any part of the money would be awarded to himself.

A resolution was then proposed, and carried *unanimously*, to the effect that Mr. Fry's conduct as mesmeriser was entirely satisfactory to the committee, every facility having been afforded by him for the full and fair examination of the case.

After the experiments with the boy had terminated, Mr. Towson requested that his eyes might be plastered as the boy's had been, in order that he might see whether the eyes were effectually secured by such a process. His wish was complied with, and as soon as the plasters were applied he commenced making violent contortions of the face, and shaking his head rapidly from side to side. Several of the committee remarked that the boy had done nothing of that sort. In his case there had been strong vibratory movement of the muscles occasionally above the eye, but nothing at all analogous to the efforts made by Mr. Towson for the evident purpose of loosening the plasters. By these efforts Mr. Towson succeeded in detaching the whole mass of plasters from the upper corner of one eye, and, taking up a volume of the *Penny Magazine*, he discerned some architectural diagrams. After several minutes' more exertion he loosened the strapings still further, and read the word "Baltimore." He continued his efforts again, and after a further interval he read the heading of a paper in large type, "Friend of Peace." The committee, however, observed that by this time there was a large opening above the right eye, through which the eye could be distinctly perceived. The two sceptical members of the committee were very desirous that great importance should be attached to Mr. Towson's test ; but the committee very justly decided that no inference could be drawn from it, except to shew how necessary it is carefully to watch all such cases. If any inference could have been drawn at all from the case, it would have been very much in favour of that of the boy ; for in his case, two scrutineers watching most vigilantly could detect no aperture for the exercise of ordinary vision ; whereas with Mr. Towson, the loosening of the plaster, caused by the violent motions of his face, was

immediately detected and pointed out. The boy read the first paper presented to him very quickly and with great apparent ease; each succeeding reading occupied longer time, and required much greater effort, giving him increased fatigue and pain at each trial. This is the very reverse of what we ought to expect if ordinary vision was exercised through an opening of the plasters. We might naturally suppose, that with increased effort the aperture would gradually be enlarged, and the reading would be easier as the experiment proceeded. Mr. Towson's experiment exactly confirmed this idea. He only made out one word with considerable difficulty at first, but as he enlarged his aperture he read with increased facility. It should be observed too that Laycock's eyes are full and projecting, with very slight hair upon the eyebrows. Mr. Towson's eyes are deeply sunk, and his projecting eyebrows are fringed with an unusual quantity of long bristly hair, to which the plasters would not adhere as they did to the soft skin of the child. Perhaps the most striking difference in the two cases was observed when the plasters were removed from Mr. Towson. An attempt was made to remove them singly, as had been done with the boy; but the very first piece that was attempted to be taken away brought off the whole mass at once—so insecurely had they adhered: each piece was pulled off separately from the boy, without at all disturbing the plasters below.

If many of the pretended exposures of *clairvoyant tricks* were as carefully compared with the originals as in this case, we believe that they would reflect back the charge of humbug and credulity which is so boastingly urged against the advocates of mesmerism. If mesmerists are charged with a want of honesty in relying upon doubtful experiments, what is to be said of sceptics who would bolster up their scepticism by tests so utterly fallacious as this?

This committee examination of the young clairvoyant has proved two or three important positions in connection with the public advocacy of the phenomenon of clairvoyance. It must be evident to every impartial mind that Mr. Lundie must have had a thorough conviction of the real possession of the faculty by the youth, or he never would have been such a fool as to risk his own reputation by placing the boy in the hands of twelve strangers, who, if the boy had been a mere impostor, must have detected the imposition, when no limit was placed upon the tests they were at liberty to apply, and when no accomplice was present to aid him in eluding the precautions taken. Would Mr. Rumball, or any of the itinerant opponents of mesmerism, allow their well-trained actors

to undergo the same ordeal? They know that certain detection would follow the attempt. It had been urged in public, that Mr. Lundie did not apply a sufficient number of slips of plaster, and great stress was laid upon the use of square pieces applied, so as entirely to cover all the under strappings. All these precautions were carefully attended to by the committee; wherever the most watchful sceptic suggested the application of a plaster, there it was put, and the square pieces were securely laid on; and to satisfy the last lingering scruples of some, the very edges of the squares were again covered, so that at last not a peg was left to hang a doubt upon. The result proved that Mr. Lundie's confidence was not misplaced.

The circumstances attending this examination must not pass unnoticed. No one was allowed to touch the mesmerised youth but his mesmeriser, whose influence upon his subject was thus preserved without interruption to the end. No conversation was allowed in the presence of the boy, and thus the most undisturbed attention could be given by all parties to the case. Any angry or excited feeling was thus effectually prevented, and justice was secured for both parties. Had the boy failed, none of the ordinary reasons, which are fairly urged, could have been offered,—no crowded room and heated atmosphere, no interference with the influence of the mesmeriser, no distraction of the mesmeriser's mind. His success, under circumstances so favourable for the calm and watchful investigation of the presumed exercise of the faculty, leads naturally to the inference, that if similar rational precautions and conditions were more frequently observed in clairvoyant expositions, the truth of this faculty would soon be satisfactorily demonstrated.

EDMUND FRY.

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative of the experiments, conducted before the committee over which I presided, is a correct statement of the circumstances which occurred.

W. CHAMPION PERRY.

The following is extracted from a letter to me by Mr. Fry.
J. ELLIOTSON.

"Last evening I tried the same boy, holding the eyelids firmly down upon the cheek-bone. He gave me the time by a lady's watch, 11½ minutes past 7, quite correctly; and described every part of a portrait, pointing to each feature and limb. Nothing could be more satisfactory."

VI. *Two Cases illustrative of the great power of Mesmerism over Rheumatism.* By the Rev. JOHN EDWARDS, Prestbury, Cheltenham. Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

To Dr. Elliotson.

Prestbury, Cheltenham,
March 7th, 1845.

My dear Sir,—Having made a few experiments in mesmerism for the cure of various diseases, and the results having been, in my judgment, astonishingly favourable, I feel impelled, by a sense of duty to suffering fellow-creatures, to communicate them to you, as the great patron of the much-controverted and abused science. I know but very little of what has been done by others; but should you consider the two enclosed cases, as compared with those of others, worth public notice, I beg that you will make what use you please of them. I have not tried it in more than about twelve instances, and I think I may say with almost uniform advantage. The other cases of suffering have been (except one, which is in progress of cure) comparatively slight in degree and duration.

To avoid the chance of exaggeration in my description of the two cases, I have this morning read it over to each of the parties in the presence of a friend, requesting their particular attention, and expressing my anxious wish that they would assist me in correcting any unintentional error.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JOHN EDWARDS.

I. Susan Merchant, aged 45, has suffered for fifteen years, without the intermission of a day and night, from rheumatic pain in her head. She has passed three successive nights without being able to lay her head on her pillow, resting the back part of it, almost without sleep, on the board at the head of the bed. She has been also subject to frequent vomiting, and has been obliged, from excessive soreness and pain in her jaws, to avoid eating, till (to use her own language) she thought she should "be cast away."

The first week of June last, I was induced (almost my first attempt at cure) to try passes over her head, from the forehead backwards. The pain soon moved from thence in the direction of the passés, and in less than a minute she said in a whisper, but with emphasis, "Beautiful! beautiful!" In half a minute more she rose from the chair, saying she had not felt so for years. She continued for seven weeks *entirely* free from pain, or inconvenience of any sort. She

then, when heated with work, got wet, and took a bad cold; this produced a return of the pain, which was again very easily removed. She now remains well and free from pain, except in a very slight degree, and that occurring very rarely, not even inducing her to seek relief, though so readily obtained.

II. Mary Cummins, aged 59, was attacked twelve years ago with rheumatism. She was relieved by medical treatment, but was soon after attacked with increased violence, and became crippled in hands and feet. Six years ago her crutch slipped from under her, and she fell, breaking the neck of the right thigh-bone. She was carried to bed: she lay with the heel of the broken leg inclined inwards, and the other foot across the ankle of it. In about a fortnight the left leg as well as the other became quite useless. She could not change their position. She has remained on her back in this condition, constantly suffering much pain, and unable also to use her hands, except to feed herself, and that with difficulty. She has usually been moved once a month on the sheet to another bed, while her own was made; this however caused her such pain, that she has frequently passed two and three months, shrinking from the task. She had not, to the best of her recollection, passed a night for years without wakefulness and pain after twelve or one o'clock.

On Monday the 14th of July, at the suggestion of a friend and neighbour, I accompanied him to try the effect of mesmerism upon her, feeling however on my own part that her's was a hopeless case, beyond relief. We found her in her usual state, complaining especially of rheumatic pain in the right arm and left leg, and pain in the head. I commenced operating by passes down the right arm, in which the pain almost immediately yielded, and she also found that after a few transverse passes she had gained the power of moving her fingers. I then made passes from her forehead, and the pain almost immediately moved from the forehead to the outer corner of the right eyebrow, where it remained with some obstinacy, but in about five minutes entirely left. I then commenced on the right leg: the pain ceased, and she observed that her foot was dead. I continued the passes for some time, then demesmerised the limb, when she found that she could move her toes. I then repeated the passes on her right arm and left her.

I went to her again with my friend the next morning, and found that she had been quite free from pain, and was in every respect comfortable. I commenced by passes on the

right arm, by which the power of motion was much increased; then tried the left leg with the same effect; then made passes down the left arm for the first time, and after transverse passes she found that she had gained the long-lost power of turning its palm upwards, and was able to move that and the other hand over her head, and in any other direction. Afterwards during passes down her right arm, I observed that she was going off to sleep, which I encouraged by a few passes over her face, and produced a calm but not very deep sleep. On waking her, she was unconscious of having slept, and was much astonished (her astonishment being equalled only by her thankfulness) at the increased power of moving her limbs, with the exception of her right leg, which had not yet been mesmerised. We then left her.

On the 16th I went to her in company with Mr. Beamish, meeting my friend before mentioned there. I commenced by passes over the right leg. (I should here say that by this time a few passes put any limb over which they were made into a state which she described by the word 'dead.') On demesmerising it, she found that she had gained the power of moving it as well as the other. I then endeavoured to mesmerise her by looking in her eyes, but without success; but very soon after, as I was making passes down her right arm, she went off into sleep, upon which I threw the limbs also into a state of insensibility; and on demesmerising them one by one, and her head or brain, she was rejoiced to find a further increase in her strength and power of motion. We then wished to mesmerise her back, to effect which we first tried to raise her from her bed in a sitting posture, but were unable. We then tried to turn her upon her left side, but desisted, fearing that we should hurt her; she however giving every assistance to our attempt. We then left her a little exhausted from the effort. She had slept well the whole of the previous night.

I went to her alone on the 17th; my object was now to mesmerise the body. Getting at her back I despaired of; so I commenced by passes down her sides, and by putting my fingers as far as I could under her body, and making passes between it and the bed. She was soon asleep, when I continued to make passes down her limbs and body. I left her in a very calm and much sounder sleep than she had been in before for about twenty minutes. On being awaked, she found she had increased power in all her limbs, and without assistance drew herself up into a sitting posture.

July 26th. After an absence from home, I found that she had been quite free from pain, and in full possession of the

powers which had been regained by former mesmerism, though they did not seem to have increased during the interval. I mesmerised her again, endeavouring especially to affect the left knee, which however remained perfectly inflexible, but the right leg gained a decidedly increased power of motion, and she moved altogether with much more freedom. She had been nursing an infant of eleven months old, which she could raise in her arms and move about from one part of the bed to another.

She has frequently been mesmerised since by myself and my friend Capt. James, but I cannot see much further progress; her answer, however, to any remark upon it is, "I never wish to be better in this world. I can never be thankful enough."

She has neither ache nor pain, and sleeps well. She once came down stairs, but does not feel inclined to do so again, as she felt less comfortable than in her bed: she was carried down. I have every reason to believe that if her right thigh-bone had not been broken, and the left knee ankylosed, she would be well able to walk. She can move her legs very freely about the bed, and without assistance sit on the edge of the bed with her feet on the floor.*

VII. *Cure of disease of the Spinal Chord, with Mesmerism.* By Mr. HOLLINGS, Leicester. In a letter to Dr. ELLIOTSON.

My dear Sir,—As I am well aware of your willingness to receive at any time, or from any quarter, additional evidence of the applicability for the relief of the severest human suffering of that powerful remedial agency, to the disinterested investigation and advocacy of which you have devoted so much time and ability, I make no apology for forwarding you the particulars of a highly interesting case of long-standing disease, lately entrusted to my care, and in which the use of animal magnetism has been attended by beneficial results of the most striking and unquestionable character.

* We never have greater pleasure in recording mesmeric cures than when they have been performed by the ministers of religion, whose proper office is to go about doing good, especially to the poor; not to harass people with mysteries, dogmas, and trumpery formalities, or any matters that can give rise to sects, but to imitate Christ's simple teaching on the Mount, urging mankind to love one another and be as little children; and, instead of spending their leisure hours in justicing, sporting, or listlessness, to further imitate him, when possible and the scantiness or failure of common medical aid justifies it, in healing the sick, as they so often can by the blessed power of mesmerism which they possess.—*Zoist*.

James Ratcliffe, æt. 37, a market-gardener by occupation, residing at No. 8, Alfred Street, Leicester, applied to me about four weeks since, in the hope of obtaining some relief from mesmeric treatment, as a last and almost desperate resource, every other remedy having proved ineffectual to remove or materially to affect the serious and alarming malady with which he was at the time afflicted. His complaint had been supposed by *two* medical gentlemen of known skill and extensive practice in Leicester, to be an *organic* affection of the spinal chord, and had continued with greater or less violence *for more than seven years*. In the spring of 1839, while working in the fields, he was suddenly seized with a sensation of drowsiness, attended by a coldness, numbness, and partial rigidity of the left leg and foot, extending to the extremities of the toes, together with acute pains in the back and head; which subsequently assumed so severe a character as almost to incapacitate him from attending to the labour he was nevertheless compelled, under whatever circumstances of distress or suffering to himself, to pursue, as the only means of obtaining a livelihood. On many occasions he had been compelled to give up work for several weeks together, and one of these periods of intermitted exertion had lasted for no less than three months, during which time he had been kept by his medical attendant constantly in a recumbent position. Blisters had been applied in succession to every part of the spine, in addition to the employment of different embrocations, counter-irritating ointments, leeches, &c.: these external applications being accompanied with the internal exhibition of all the remedies ordinarily recommended.

From my own personal knowledge of the gentlemen under whose treatment he had placed himself, I am confident that every expedient which ability and experience could suggest had been employed in his behalf. Nevertheless it was evident, that, however ably some of its severest effects might be combated by the judgment and humane attentions of his medical advisers, the radical cure of the disease was far from being accomplished; and that, although partial and temporary relief might be afforded to his sufferings, the cause from which they had primarily originated remained substantially the same.

When I first saw him, in addition to the distressing numbness and want of flexibility in his leg and foot, which had continued without interruption from the time at which he was first attacked, he complained of violent pain between the shoulders, as well as in two fingers of each hand; of cramp-like sensations at the wrists, dizziness of sight, especially after rising in the morning; and of frequent head-aches,

especially in the occipital region. The whole spine was so exceedingly sensitive, that the slightest pressure upon it produced exquisite suffering. In addition to this, his nights were restless and disturbed, and his wasted appearance and haggard countenance gave ample testimony to the severity of a disorder, to the sufficiently formidable character of which, in the first instance, had now been added all the aggravating circumstances of an obstinate continuance for many years.

My first efforts to produce mesmeric coma, which were continued for about half an hour, seemed to all outward observation to produce but little effect. The ordinary manipulations were adopted, and were attended, as it appeared to me, by nothing more than a somewhat hurried respiration on the part of the patient. He however afterwards assured me that he had actually lost all consciousness, although his eyes had remained constantly open. On my next attendance, the ordinary character of the mesmeric sleep was manifested, attended by perfect catalepsy of the arms and legs; a phenomenon which I afterwards found could be easily produced during a waking condition. Appearances being thus far favourable, I proceeded to manipulate for the relief of the disease, by making passes down the partially-paralyzed limb, and along the spinal column. I also ventured upon the experiment, which had been adopted with so much success in the case of Mary Ann Lakin, of desiring the patient to sleep during the subsequent night for a given number of hours. On being aroused, he declared that he felt a comfortable glow down the back, and a similar sensation in the left leg and foot, and that he was on the whole already much relieved, the pain between his shoulders having entirely ceased.

By a regular repetition of the method of manipulation I had at first adopted, his progress towards a complete recovery soon became daily perceptible, and presented a more encouraging character at every visit. In no instance did he fail either to fall into natural sleep or to awaken from it (which perhaps is still more extraordinary) at the hour appointed. On one occasion, as a more perfect test, I desired him to retire to rest half an hour after the time of his being awake from the mesmeric state. This injunction was given at half-past eight in the evening; and at nine, without having communicated my intention either to himself or to any member of his family, I suddenly returned to his house. He had already gone up stairs to bed, feeling, as he said, an irresistible and unaccountable drowsiness; and five minutes afterwards, having taken a candle in my hand and entered his bed-room, I convinced myself that he was buried in a pro-

found slumber. On waking from each successive mesmeric sleep, he persisted that he felt a greater degree of warmth and flexibility in his foot than before; and I should perhaps state, that while manipulating the latter, by placing my fingers on opposite sides of the limb, *a starting or tremulous motion of the tendons was most distinctly perceptible*, much resembling the nervous twitchings caused by the transmission through any part of the body of a gentle current of voltaic electricity. Within about ten days he assured me that perfect freedom of motion and entire sensation had been restored to the affected member.

Without detaining you by the recital of farther particulars, which would merely tend, if detailed, to corroborate the truth of mesmeric phenomena, now almost universally known, I have simply, and with no little pleasure, to add, that my patient considers himself at the present moment *perfectly cured*. The pains in his back, hands, and head have been completely removed. The soreness and tenderness is also, so far as I can ascertain, entirely gone from the spine. His left leg (in which, I may observe, that partial atrophy had already taken place) is as sound, and almost as available for hard labour, as the right. He sleeps well, and certainly looks ten years younger than when I saw him for the first time. His own expression is, that he feels himself a new man, and that he has now a useful foot instead of one of stone. But the most satisfactory evidence of his real condition is the circumstance, that for the last twelve or fourteen days he has been in full and constant work as a garden-labourer, and that for two or three days past he has been working with a potato-dibble of some nine or ten pounds weight, for several hours together, without experiencing the least uneasiness or the slightest unpleasant result whatever. Finally, upon all the circumstances I have stated in relation to this singular cure, I boldly challenge, and am ready to meet, the most free and minute investigator.

I willingly embrace the opportunity thus afforded me of informing you, with reference to the first instance of amputation performed in this town eighteen months ago, that my former patient, Mary Ann Lakin, continues up to the present time in tolerable health and free from the least appearance of malignant disease; although one of the most eminent surgeons in Leicester assured me, a short time previously to the operation, that it was one on which he would by no means venture, so firm was his conviction that the terrible affection which had attacked the knee-joint, and which I may remind you was confirmed fungus hæmatodes, must inevitably and

speedily return. My own time being very much occupied in professional pursuits and engagements, I have but scanty opportunities left for devoting my attention to mesmeric investigations. Within the last year and a half, however, I have been happily instrumental in curing two cases of tic douloureux; in one instance at the first sitting, although the sufferer, a young lady of the highest respectability of station and character, had been for months adopting the ordinary remedies without benefit, and had even consented to the extraction of a tooth, which it had been supposed might be in some degree connected with the continuance of the complaint. It is true that she was threatened with a return of the disorder many weeks afterwards, on the other side of the face, but every unpleasant symptom was dissipated on the day of my second attendance; since which time she has experienced no return of the torture to which she was constantly subject.

I regret to have the unpleasant news to communicate, that my esteemed friend, Mr. Toswill, the operator in the case of Mary Ann Lakin and in two instances of strabismus, recorded in *The Zoist*, has been compelled by ill health to remove his practice from Leicester to Devonshire. It would be well that this fact should be generally understood, to account for the non-occurrence of other operations, in a field which has afforded such satisfactory evidence of the power of animal magnetism to suspend and to subdue, under the most trying circumstances, all sense of physical suffering.

I know not whether you have seen the address of a Mr. Estlin, delivered at the meeting of a medical association in the west of England, some time during the course of last autumn, on the subject of mesmerism. To the arguments contained in it, few supporters of animal magnetism will, I imagine, think it worth while to answer. But one observation I feel compelled to make with respect to certain matters of fact embodied in Mr. Estlin's harangue; and this is, that his account of the Leicester operations is not only most grossly, but even ludicrously incorrect. He supposes, for instance, or at least gives his hearers to understand, that but *one* amputation has taken place in this town during mesmeric sleep, and confounds the phenomena and circumstances of two distinct operations, besides making other misstatements, which the slightest degree of candour or industry in collecting the materials for his disquisition would have enabled him to avoid. Yet to this distorted and *ex parte* statement, it appears that the assembled medical science of the province in which he resides listened with much complacency, and without the least suspicion regarding the authenticity of the nar-

rations with which their credulity was abused*. And this is the way in which evidence given *ex cathedra* on the subject of mesmerism is received. That it is not the way in which truth can be ultimately suppressed, or mankind prevented from availing themselves of a benefit, the vital importance of which every day is rendering more palpable, needs no demonstration.

I need scarcely say that you are at liberty to make any use you may think proper of the whole or any portion of the present letter.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

With much respect and esteem,

Up. Carlton Place, Leicester,
March 14th, 1846.

Yours very sincerely,
J. F. HOLLINGS.

J. Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

As this disease in my experience always returns, and within four or five years at the latest, I should advise that this patient be mesmerised daily for a year or two, to lessen her liability.—J. E.

VIII. Verses by Miss Savage.

The following lines were suggested by the reply of a slave, who, on being asked to describe his feelings in the mesmeric state, answered, "As I never felt before—free!"†

As sweeps the rapid current
To the river's rolling flood—
As the cat'ract's mountain torrent,
Or the whirlwind through the wood—
Did my slumbering spirit waken
From the thralldom of the slave,
And its course unchecked hath taken,
Free, as whirlwind, or the wave.

When the bounding billow bore me—
When beneath the forest tree,
The wild deer fled before me,
I deemed that I was free,—

* The ignorance, displayed in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, of the characters of somnambulism and various points of physiology, of the difference between firmness and insensibility and the marks of each, and of mesmerism, together with the credulity of the members when Sir Benjamin Brodie misrepresented the remarkable and genuine case of the sleeping man near Bath and they with him passed over the various curious facts of the Nottinghamshire case, prevents all surprise at the ignorance, credulity and incredulity, (for credulity and incredulity are the twin offspring of the same ignorance and faulty state of brain,) of the country members of the profession.—*Zoist*.

† See a similar reply in Vol. III., p. 65.—*Zoist*.

That my swift food did inherit,
With its light unshackled bound,
All the bliss of the Great Spirit,
In the happy hunting ground.

The fierce hyena howling
No tangled brake could hide,
If Manon's step was prowling
The green Savannah's side :
The spear that in the forest
Would clear the hunter's path,
Fell in the war-whoop sorest,
And told of Manon's wrath.

When shouting through the wild wood
In unquelled native glee,
In the brave sports of my childhood,
O'er the trackless prairie ;
Upon the war-path ever,
Like an arrow from the bow ;
Yet freedom !—never, never !
Have I dreamed of it 'till now.

Awhile in gentle numbers,
Like the voice of rippling streams,
Sweet sounds came o'er my slumber
As haunt the land of dreams :
From the body's shackles parted,
On the pinions of the wind,
Free—forth my spirit started,
And its fetters left behind.

Through space unbounded winging
It took its upward flight,
To freedom's regions springing,
As flies the course of light.
Bring back the chain that bound me,
That at thy bidding fell,
But breathe once more around me
The mercy of thy spell.

Its mighty strength hath taught me
These fetters are in vain ;
And though with gold they bought me,
I'm free, I'm free again.

Go seek the hearts that languish,
As Manon's languished long ;
Go sooth the sick man's anguish,
And change his grief to song.

Yet white men love their prison,
And forge themselves the chain,
When slaves' crushed souls have risen
In freedom's light again ;
And scorning him who breaketh
Their darkness but to bless,
Heed not, though knowledge speaketh
In truth and tenderness.

IX. Letter from Mr. Chandler.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—I have not any new cases sufficiently advanced for publication in your next number, though I have several very interesting ones in hand. One of them (a case of epilepsy deriving great benefit) is very curious, and well calculated to convince sceptics. I shall be most happy to show him to any who will come with their eyes open and willing to be convinced. He is so completely under the influence of my will, that I can awake him at any time in about twenty seconds by merely willing it; and this I can demonstrate most satisfactorily to the greatest sceptic, except such a one as Mr. Wakley, who might find it to his interest to shut his eyes to the most beautiful facts.

Mr. F., whose case was reported in your last number, came to me a few days ago complaining of chronic rheumatism of the head and face, produced by applying a wet towel round his head for head-ache some time ago. He had not been free from pain, more especially of an evening, for five weeks. It was not severe, but quite sufficient to cause him much annoyance. I mesmerised him half an hour. When he called the next day, he told me it was well we did not live in the last century, or I might be burnt for witchcraft; his rheumatism had quite left him, nor has it returned.

Mary Ann Smith, reported in the number for July, has had an attack of partial paralysis of the right side, evidently an hysterical affection. She could not hold anything in the right hand, and the left leg was dragged after her. Four times mesmerising completely restored her.

Hoping to have much interesting matter for you before July.

I remain, yours obediently,
58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe, THOMAS CHANDLER.
March, 1846.

** I have received a letter from Mr. Chandler to be forwarded to *The Zoist*: and, in complying with his wish, am desirous of stating that a more beautiful example of the power of the will, or of singular perception, cannot be witnessed. It is worth a day's journey to see. A stout, sturdy-looking young man, in good circumstances, subject to epilepsy, was easily sent into deep mesmeric coma. Without a word, or visible movement, or the slightest noise, Mr. Chandler, standing at a distance from him, in a room full of patients and spectators, many of them talking, woke him several times at pleasure by simply willing and moving a finger invisibly. The effect invariably followed in less than a minute. I, like some others, stood close by Mr. Chandler, at his side and rather behind him, with one hand close to, almost touching, his back; and the signal I gave for Mr. Chandler to will the waking, was just to advance the tip of one finger and touch Mr. Chandler's back. The man could not have learnt what I did, or when I did it, unless he was clairvoyant. The gradual disturbance of the breathing, and movements of the arms, head and body, till full waking was accomplished, was most striking. Mr. Chandler makes a beautiful experiment upon his insensibility; putting a small roll of paper up his nose and moving it about against the organ without the faintest mark of sensibility, though in the waking state he cannot bear this a moment. Yet though there is no conscious sensation, the eye of that side gradually sympathizes, and at length a tear appears in the corner. It will be remembered that, at page 8, the American lady after the third operation on her cancerous breast is said to have been awakened by the mesmeriser's mere will.

Another patient of Mr. Chandler's is equally worth a day's journey to see. A very pretty young girl is as susceptible in her ordinary state as the two Okeys were in their mesmeric delirium, in which they frolicked about with their eyes open. One pass instantly stupifies her, bringing down her eyelids, arresting her in the very position in which she may be walking, stooping, putting on her bonnet, using her handkerchief, or doing whatever else: instantly, like the Okeys, she becomes a silent statue. She is as instantly awakened by a transverse movement of the fingers, but not

unless that is done within the sphere of her vision ; and her eyes are never quite closed. Do it close to her face, do it with a noise, make the air wave, if you please, give her every other means of knowing it,—no effect ensues, unless you do it below the level of her upper lid so that the circumstances can pass through the pupil to the retina. She gives no other evidence of seeing ; and this is unconscious seeing.* Just as with the Okeys, a pass with merely bending a finger stupifies her : or a bow before her, which amounts to a pass with the whole body. She can also be drawn at once by slight tractive movements of one hand, though these be made behind her, at the middle of her back, when she cannot suspect them, and even though her eyes are covered with a cloth.

Of two females, whose arms, &c., can be stiffened when they are awoke, one completely, and one imperfectly, can relax them by breathing upon the parts, as Miss Collins could :† and one can also produce the rigidity herself, even of a single finger, by long contact passes of the other hand.

What an example has Mr. Chandler set to his medical brethren ! He had never seen mesmerism when I advised it in a case to which he had called me in and shewed him the method. He forthwith mesmerised the patient, cured the disease, and brought out phenomena : sending the important statement first to the *Lancet*, and afterwards to the *London Medical Gazette*, both which rejected it ; but it was afterwards published in *The Zoist*.‡ From that day, he has employed mesmerism among his patients just as freely as other medical means ; and made no secret of it, as some sickening believers do, but advised it openly, defending it on all occasions, and exhibiting it to his friends and those of his brethren who would condescend to witness it. He has not considered whether he could afford to have a conscience.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

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- X. Review of an *Abstract of Researches on Magnetism and Certain Allied Subjects, including a supposed new Imponderable*. By BARON VON REICHENBACH. Translated and abridged from the German, by WILLIAM GREGORY, M.D., F.R.S.E., M.R.I.A., Professor of Chemistry (in the University of Edinburgh). London : Taylor and Walton, 28, Upper Gower Street. 1846. pp. 112, with two plates. By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

In the 53rd volume of Liebig and Wöhler's *Annalen der*

* Compare Vol. III., p. 361-2. † Vol. III., p. 449. ‡ Vol. I., p. 162.

Chemie und Pharmacie, was a supplement of 270 pages, last spring, with the above title, by the minute, laborious, and faithful discoverer of creosote and some other substances in tar,—the German chemist, Reichenbach. It appears by a letter from the author at Vienna to his translator, dated last February, that his observations have been made upon twenty-three persons, men and matrons, all confirming the same facts and opinions.

Magnets of 10 lbs. supporting power, when drawn along the body downwards, without contact, produced, in some persons, more frequently females and those who are nervous, especially those affected with nervous diseases, and above all lunatics and somnambulists, a rather unpleasant sensation, like a wind, warm or cooling, pricking or creeping, and sometimes also rapid headache; though the patient knew not what was doing. Occasionally fainting, catalepsy, or violent spasms were induced, with extreme acuteness of the external senses.

Reichenbach thought that a cataleptic and spasmodic girl of twenty-five, whose vision made a dark room twilight to her, and who was very susceptible to the magnet, might perceive some luminous appearance about the magnet: and as soon as the armature was removed from one bearing 80 lbs., and of nine elements, she actually did see, in profound darkness, a luminous appearance, which uniformly disappeared when the armature was applied. In a similar experiment, on her recovery from a cataleptic attack when her sensibility was the greatest and others could discern nothing, she saw, at the distance of ten feet, a luminous vapour, surrounded by rays $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, constantly shooting and lengthening and shortening in the most beautiful manner from the poles, which were placed upwards, disappearing when the armature was applied, and reappearing on its removal; more strongly than ever just at the moment of its removal. The light was almost purely white, sometimes mixed with iridescent colours, and denser towards the middle than towards the corners of the edges of the magnet. When she was nearly cured, she discerned two luminous threads only, no doubt the edges of the poles, and at length nothing but a flash just on the removal of the armature; and the same was the case at her most sensitive period, if a weaker magnet was employed.

A somnambulant, cataleptic, spasmodic, phthisical girl of nineteen, fell into spasms and unconsciousness if the armature was removed from the large magnet within six paces of her feet when in bed in the dark, and on coming to herself declared she had seen white, red and blue fire of the height

of a small hair's-breadth, rise from the magnet. She wished to examine it more minutely, but, the circuit not being closed, she was again thrown into unconsciousness.

A stupid spasmodic boy of eighteen saw flame a hand-breadth high, whenever the armature was removed, in the dark.

A spasmodic girl of twenty-five, with the lower extremities palsied, did the same, and, when the spasms were on, the light from the poles seemed much larger, and currents of weaker light issued from all the surface, dazzling her, and largest and brightest at the poles.

A strong girl of twenty-nine, was subject to distant attacks of spasms, somnambulism and insanity, and a great intensity of sight that lasted when she was otherwise recovered. She was very intelligent and could bear the proximity of magnets well. She saw the light, even in twilight, though larger, brighter, and with more defined outlines and distinct play of colours, in the dark; and then, if the armature was on, the light did not proceed particularly from the poles, but from every point, short, flammular, uniform, and constantly undulating, about as long as the little finger is thick; but, if the armature was removed, rays almost as long as the magnet (nearly 9 inches) proceeded from the poles, rather broader than the bar; the two flames not inclining to each other any more than in the first case. The position of the bar had no influence, nor was any heat perceptible by Nobili's thermoscope.

Another spasmodic and somnambulant girl of twenty, who went about the city and looked well, saw all the same appearances, but larger, more distinct and brilliant.

A very delicate daguerrotype plate was placed opposite a magnet without its armature in a closed box, covered with the bed clothes to exclude light as much as possible. After 64 hours, the plate when held over mercurial vapour was throughout as fully affected as by light: whereas in the same experiment, without a magnet, the plate remained unaffected.

An electro-magnet gave the same appearance as a steel magnet: and, it being within the poles of the steel magnet, the flame of the latter bent down to its flame, as the flame of a taper does to the blast of the blow-pipe. The magnetic light could be concentrated by a lens.

When one of the females was in a state of insensibility and catalepsy, a horse-shoe magnet was taken near her hand. She seized it and her hand followed it whithersoever it was moved: even if it was forcibly separated from her hand, and removed further than she could reach, she raised herself in bed and followed it with her hand as far as

she could reach: if the magnet was still further removed, she unwillingly let it go, but remained fixed in her position. The same phenomena took place when she was quite conscious. "She described the sensation as an *irresistible* attraction, which she felt *compelled* against her will to *obey*;" the sensation being agreeable, refreshing, peculiar, indescribable. With two other of the females, all the same results were obtained. Baron Reichenbach says, that "the adhesion of a living limb to a magnet is a fact unknown in physiology or in physics," yet also says that the attraction of the hand by a magnet was formerly described by Dr. Petetin, of Lyons. "The next question was, is the attraction mutual, or will the hand attract bodies that are attracted by the magnet?" He properly determines in the negative: for their hands did not attract iron filings, nor affect a needle or a balance magnet, nor magnetise a needle.

I have two patients, the cancerous female mentioned at p. 9, and Mary Ann, (Vol. III., p. 361,) who are affected by the mere magnet in both their ordinary and their sleep-waking state. Their hand contracts involuntarily and firmly upon either pole of the magnet, grows rigid; and on removing the magnet, the rigidity continues, and apparently would for hours. On removing the magnet the rigidity continued: but was AT ONCE REMOVED BY MESMERIC MEANS, —by applying iron to the hand, by breathing upon it, by transverse passes over it, by pointing closely at it, or by putting my own hand in contact with it. Nothing could exceed my joy at seeing what I had discovered and related of the effects of mesmerised gold, silver, &c., upon the Okeys, and of iron and other means in antagonizing them, thus all verified in regard to the unmesmerised magnet. By allowing the magnet to remain in the hand of Mary Ann, after I had sent her into deep sleep-waking by one pass as usual, the hand and arm being already stiffened, the whole body participated, the brain became dull, and at last a degree of stupefaction and debility occurred: and strongly mesmerised gold causes all these effects in M. A. so rapidly and violently that I dare apply it for only a few moments and over a limited surface; otherwise, the hand relaxes after violently grasping the gold. She grasps a finger on which she feels there is a gold ring, for in her sleep-waking she has no power of opening her eyes ever so little. She experiences so delightful a sensation, she says, from the gold, and cannot avoid grasping it; but she presently drops thoroughly relaxed, and has tetanus in the form of pleurosthotonos, just as Elizabeth Okey had similar effects from nickel, but tetanus in the form of opisthotonos: and then M. A., after very rapid respirations, followed by very slow and deep inspiration, is exhausted, pale, cold, has a filthy taste in her mouth, and is profoundly melancholy for some time, requiring stimulants, and wakes into a cross, half delirious state,—all just as occurred in

the Okeys after mesmerised metals or water had been much applied; and she is recovered from this depressed and delirious state by my inducing sleep and waking her afresh. This waking is into a rational state, though relapses may occur and repetitions of sleep be required, and debility may remain for many hours. When the magnet had been held some time by her, after being sent to sleep by a pass, she grew more and more silent, and at length stupid, snappish and miserable, exactly as she is after the most violent effects of strongly mesmerised gold have passed off. Her arms in her mesmeric state are spontaneously rigid, if raised: but now, if raised, after I had relaxed her hands they dropped relaxed.—In her waking state the effect of the magnet on her cerebral functions was little or nothing, though held by her for half an hour; but on sending her to sleep by a pass, its influence greatly increased, for the cerebral disturbance came on. The local effect of the magnet on the hands was probably greater in the mesmeric state: but I have not had time to ascertain this satisfactorily. An unmesmerised sovereign causes rigidity of her hands and arms in the mesmeric state, but nothing more. All the results which ensued on applying mesmerised gold, &c., to the Okeys, and all the results which ensued when the parts were stiffened by mesmeric means; and which have appeared in my *Physiology*, in my clinical lectures, the reports in the *Lancet* and other journals for 1838, and in my farewell *Letter* to the students of University College Hospital. I hope to repeat all Baron R.'s experiments, and hope he will repeat them on persons in the mesmeric state, and make my experiments also.

Iron has no effect upon her in either state any more than it had on the Okeys: she holds the poker any time, awake or sleep-waking, with no result. In truth the plain unmesmerised magnet has the same effect that mesmerised mesmerisable metals had upon the Okeys, upon whom, however, I never found the magnet, mesmerised or unmesmerised, to have any effect. They were affected by no metal, unless it was first mesmerised, that is, held in the hand or against some other point of the surface, breathed upon, or gazed intensely at. Certain metals, gold, silver, platinum, nickel, could be so mesmerised: while others, as copper and lead, could not, unless the breath or perspiration was left on them; and then an effect came, but none if they were well wiped; and if any substance, but iron, not wiped after a good application of the breath or cutaneous moisture to it, were applied, the effects came. Iron could never be made to affect them. When they were rigid and unconscious and the eyes closed, from a mesmerised sovereign lying on their hand, their muscles all relaxed, their eyes opened, and they were restored instantly, by placing iron upon the gold: the effects returned on withdrawing the iron, and ceased on placing it again upon the gold. "Some metals, as lead and copper, could never be charged so as to affect the elder; and nickel had always a tremendous influence over her, such as I defy any human being to imitate. But lead and copper affected the younger, if, after having been held in the hand of another, the perspiration was not wiped off them. If it was wiped away, no effect

ever occurred. Iron could never be made to affect either, under any circumstance; on the contrary, it invariably destroyed the power in charged gold or silver. Nothing could be more interesting than to see a charged sovereign or shilling lying in their hand, a screen being held between it and their head; and, as soon as the hand began to close and the eyes to fix, to observe these effects instantly arrested and subside when a short iron rod was brought into contact with the metal, and augment again when it was withdrawn. I have often substituted a rod of silver or of some other metal, for I had rods made of various metals precisely similar in form and size, when it was impossible the girl could know which was being used; and in the case of a leaden rod I myself should not have known by the eye at the moment, but to prevent confusion had put each into a separate pocket. The silver, copper, and lead had no neutralizing power, and therefore never diminished or arrested the effect. I recollect one day having put a charged sovereign into the hand of the younger. Her hand began to contract, and she could not by any effort open it. She was very cross, and seeing two rods exactly alike, took up one, thinking it was iron; and told me now she was a match for me and would open her hand. But her hand would not open. I then went to look at the other rod, and found that it was the iron rod, and that she had taken the leaden. I pulled the leaden one out, and introduced the iron one between the fingers and palm, and her hand immediately opened.”*

Both my present patients followed the magnet with their hand, as a piece of iron would, and adhered to it as closely as possible. On being asked why they did so, their reply was that they did not know—they could not help it. The action was not regular like that of a needle following a magnet, but irregular, like that of a person striving to keep close to and up with another. Baron R. is correct in considering this to be no magnetism. It is evidently a willed action; an involuntary, forced willing. The patient has a pleasant sensation, and finds the inclination to touch the magnet irresistible. The movements produced by traction, even when they vex the patient, are equally willed, although by compulsion (see Vol. II., p. 58, 204.) Although the magnet produced these effects upon Baron R.’s patients even when apparently insensible, the sleep of sleep-waking, which was their state, is seldom so deep but that certain influences, different in different cases, are felt, and, if there be strength enough, some active voluntary sign of the influence manifested.† The brains of his patients in the deep sleep no doubt felt the influence of the magnet, and unconsciously and involuntarily willed movements towards it. When patients’ eyes are open in their mesmeric state and they see, some roll them involuntarily rapidly from side to side, upwards or downwards, just as a prism, or piece of wood, &c., is moved.

When the hand was contracted by the magnet applied to the

* *Human Physiology*, p. 1177.

† See my Pamphlet, p. 38, 41; *Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 53.

palm, I opened it by applying the magnet to its back; and it was rigidly opened.

The contraction and rigidity produced by the magnet are evidently distinct from the following, which is a compelled volition, just as the rigidity from mesmeric processes is distinct from traction.

I have tried the magnet in the hands also of Rosina,* who is usually sent to sleep-waking by pointing at her eyes for seven minutes: in Mrs. Hall, who is readily sent into silent sleep-waking, and formerly with general rigidity:† in a lady who required that morning but two passes to go into sleep-waking, and is neuralgic and subject to opisthotonos: in another lady, who is subject to vomiting, and is sent to sleep-waking as readily. In none of these was there any effect. Now Mary Ann and the cancerous patient are always stiffened by passes. Rosina formerly was, but is not now. Mrs. Hall formerly was rigid, but is not now, nor can she be made so. The two other patients have never shewn rigidity. I have tried it repeatedly with no effect upon two whom I have tried in vain for half an hour daily for five months to mesmerise. I tried six of Mr. Chandler's patients, both in their ordinary and mesmeric state, who all are put to sleep-waking very readily. Except that one felt a pricking in his palm, five experienced nothing; but one, a middle-aged woman, had her hand contracted exactly as Mary Ann's was, and it was relaxed by all the same means, breathing, transverse passes, iron, contact of my hand. She also presently felt drowsy and passed into the sleep-waking state, exhibiting all her sleep-waking phenomena. She only of the six can be made rigid by passes; two of the others are cataleptic, but never rigid. She only, of all Mr. Chandler's six cases and my six, when awake saw light from the magnet in the dark: but she saw two masses of "beautiful" light in dots working about, and while looking at it, placed a foot from her, went to sleep. She saw some light even in the light.

The magnet I employed was not to be compared with Baron R.'s. It has five elements, and supports six lbs., but is the best I could obtain in the few days which elapsed between the receipt of Dr. Gregory's book and the publication of *The Zoist*. The unaffected patients were equally unaffected, though I previously mesmerised the magnet by holding it in my hand. When the curve of the magnet was employed, Mr. Chandler's patient's hand stiffened; Mary Ann's did not.

The medical world will now, I hope, believe that all the exquisite results which I obtained in the Okeys from inanimate substances were real. I found in them that when a mesmerised metal or the mere breath had affected one hand, if the other was applied to it, the other grew rigid also; and that the effect was increased in any part by friction with anything; and if the rigidity had ceased, was renewed by friction. Even after their hand had relaxed, if they closed it again at my desire, the action reproduced the rigidity, and they could not open it for some time. These trials I have made after the application of the unmesmerised magnet, with the same

* Vol. II., p. 194.

† Vol. II., p. 42.

successful results. Mary Ann, in her mesmeric state, has a slight effect from unmesmerised gold coin, far less than when it has been mesmerised,—but in that only; her hands spasmodically contract, and they are relaxed by mesmeric means.

Reichenbach gives two lists of substances in reference to the possession of a power similar to that of the magnet. 1. Inert, as gold and silver coins, copper, &c. 2. Active, *a.* fine crystals, of gold, diamonds, sulphate of copper, &c., causing the fingers to close mildly; *b.* rock salt, rock crystal, &c., to close with spasm; and *c.* fluor and heavy spar, gypsum, &c., to close with violent spasm, and to attract when near the hand. The effect was greater if they were first magnetised; and greater in the cataleptic than the natural state. Therefore, in certain patients, the period of an attack is sometimes one of great susceptibility. I presume that an enlarged sphere of trial will disclose great differences of effect upon different individuals. In my trials before Reichenbach's experiments, this was the case in reference to substances mesmerised. I never happened to try upon the Okeys any of the substances mentioned by him, as producing effects of themselves without magnetism, except the diamond and other precious stones, metallic antimony and bismuth; and they produced no effect, neither did jewels produce any after being held in the hand and then wiped. I trust he will repeat all his experiments in the two other conditions of the substance, first held in the hand and then wiped; and secondly, held in the hand and not wiped. He may find some of his inert class powerful on some patients. Thus unmesmerised gold coin is in his inert class, but it affects Mary Ann.

He found that magnetized water, or that over which a magnet had been passed, was readily distinguished by his patients by the taste, and even inclined the head to follow it. He could thus produce the same change in all sorts of substances, so that they acted upon the hand as the magnet (I presume it is implied that water did the same); some occasioning spasms of the hand, some of the arm, some of the whole body, though all equally magnetized.

The Okeys felt nothing from common water; but mesmerised water drunk threw them into insensibility: and at one time, in one, it did not till a second draught or a draught of plain water was afterwards taken. Applied to the finger of one, but of Elizabeth only, it caused contraction inwards, if applied to the inside; outwards, if applied to the outside: when sight was impossible, and water from a mesmerised and an unmesmerised glass variously, kept behind her back, even behind a screen, was employed! These beautiful experiments were shewn by me to Mr. Wakley, and he had

nothing to object to them: he was quite at a loss even for impudence, and passed them over in silence in his unfair and ignorant account of what he says he saw. At length, if much was employed, insensibility and extreme debility for a time ensued. Mary Ann finds mesmerised water sweet, and would drink any quantity of it. She can distinguish a person in the mesmeric state by the touch, even though her eyes are fixedly closed and she prevented from all ordinary means of knowing. She has a sensation so delightful, that her hand firmly squeezes theirs, and can be drawn from it only by force. She fancies that some adhesive substance has been put by me upon it—she says, “sticky stuff;” finds it exquisite, and can tell precisely how far the person is under the mesmeric influence. I have often put her hand upon a patient’s, and, having covered her head, begun to mesmerise him; and presently as signs of drowsiness began in him, did she say some sticky stuff is coming: as the sleepiness increased, so did her sensation; if it lessened, so did her sensation; and the deeper his state, the stronger her sensation. At length the effect upon her is the same as that of gold, and she drops senseless, powerless, and breathless.

Many cannot distinguish mesmerised water and experience no effect from it. Of the Okeys I said, in my *Physiology*, p. 1179: “Water has no effect: but, if it is breathed into or has a finger placed in it, acquires the power of producing sudden sleep if drunk by either sister: and, in the elder, contraction of a finger or limb which is moistened with it, as well as deep sleep. We send her to sleep by passes, and measures are taken to prevent the possibility of sight, and, when she is asleep, we moisten any finger, the side of the nose, or any other part of the face with it or with plain water. If with plain water, there is no effect: if with the mesmerised, the part after a time contracts. If the back of the finger is moistened, the finger extends: if the inside, it bends: if the forehead, this wrinkles and moves up and down: if the eyelids, they open: if the angle of the mouth, it twitches sidewise. These experiments have been made thousands of times, and *always*, except for some evident reason, with the same results. But the mesmerised water has a powerful narcotic and depressing property. The longer it is applied, and the more of it is used, the deeper the sleep and snoring become: and, if too much is used, paleness, exhaustion, rapidity and extreme smallness of pulse take place, so that no one should presume to make these experiments unless well acquainted with the subject. Indeed, with respect to any of these experiments, for an ignorant man to take the matter in hand himself, as though he had made himself master of the subject, is as absurd and disgusting as if a countryman should push aside a chemical lecturer, and mix acids, alkalies, and salts from various bottles, and declare, because things did not happen as he expected, that chemistry was fudge: or if such a clown, who had never seen a microscope before, should put objects under it, and knowing nothing about the instrument, be able to see fog and confusion only, and therefore declare the instrument an imposition. If the susceptibility is not strong, water swallowed may

have no effect till a second draught is taken, or even a draught of unmesmerised water, so as to occasion friction of the part wet with the mesmerised water. Since, if a part has been breathed upon or touched by another, or touched with something mesmerised, friction with any unmesmerised or unmesmerisable substance will bring out the effects of the previous and hitherto dormant cause or re-excite effects that had ceased: should a finger be held by another person, and then rubbed with a brush moistened with unmesmerised water, effects will ensue just as if water first mesmerised were used. Should mesmerised gold or nickel have been applied to a part, and from the susceptibility being low no effect have occurred, or should there have been an effect and it have ceased, friction with anything will bring out the effect of the thing previously applied: or should a thing not directly mesmerisable, but mesmerisable by contact with a directly mesmerisable metal, be ignorantly allowed to be in contact with a mesmerisable metal, and then be applied to the person, the effects of the directly mesmerisable metal will be produced."

The effect of all mesmerised substances I found different in different people, and in the same at different times. Metals, even nickel, had no effect upon Elizabeth Okey at last. All the manifestations and all the phenomena of these cases, whether spontaneous or mesmeric, are liable to fluctuation. In the same way, not only do different medicines act differently upon different persons, but the same medicine at different times.

Baron R. found that the effects were sometimes slow, sometimes quick, and that the power of substances had no relation to their electric character; exactly as I had observed in regard to mesmerism. All active bodies were crystallized, all the amorphous inert; but confusedly crystallized bodies were also inert; even the same substance was active when a crystal, inert when amorphous. The piece of nickel which I used with Elizabeth Okey was a polished spheroid; what Mr. Wakley used was a rough piece. Whether this made a difference or not I cannot tell, nor do I care, because belief is involuntary, and I do not believe a word of his statement of his experiments behind my back; and because he was ignorant that lead, &c., in contact with mesmerised nickel acquired its mesmeric properties, and that after nickel had been rubbed with no effect on a part, the effect comes as soon as an inert substance is rubbed. I saw him apply nickel to Elizabeth Okey but once; no effect came. But as soon as the part was rubbed with lead, all the frightful effects of nickel arose. She could not tell what was applied, and he had not a word to say. His day of discomfiture is arrived! He was totally ignorant of the subject, never having seen an experiment before; and a Somersetshire ploughman was just as well qualified to make experiments as himself—especially behind my back.

Reichenbach's patients distinguished two opposite points of the principal axes in crystals as poles. The minus or north pole less powerful and cool; the other, the south or plus pole, lukewarm. All agreed as to the situation of the poles. If the point of a large rock crystal, or a magnet, was drawn along the palm towards the finger ends, the movement occupying five seconds, an agreeable and cool sensation was experienced; when in the opposite direction, a disagreeable and warm sensation. But this varied with the poles in different persons. A large crystal, three times larger, drawn towards the wrist, caused violent spasms of the arm; and in one patient such flushing, also followed by paleness, that a repetition of the experiment was not ventured upon;—it was to her what nickel was to Elizabeth Okey. Some gentlemen, indeed half his neighbours, in good health, experienced analogous sensations from crystals, the north and south pole of the crystals being distinguishable through the difference of sensation by many, though they looked the other way. Yet these crystals gave no sign of magnetism.

They all distinguished also secondary polar axes. The power of a crystal could be transferred to solid bodies and water by stroking them with one of its poles, so that every patient could distinguish them from those not stroked, if no time was lost in making the experiment.

This is the case with mesmerism; in water and inanimate bodies mesmerised by contact, breath, passes, &c. I also find that by rubbing mesmerised gold, &c., upon a body not capable of direct mesmerisation, although it might appear so if the animal moisture upon it was not wiped off, this substance might be indirectly charged. Thus by rubbing mesmerised gold on copper, this becomes mesmerised.

The power in my experiments instantly began to decline and was soon lost, just as with Reichenbach's crystal and magnet power.

I have known parties mesmerised at a distance by sending them by the post a piece of leather, &c., first mesmerised. The effect, however, was gradually lost, and a fresh piece required. Once unmesmerised leather was sent with no intimation, and there was no effect; a mesmerised piece, as usual, was then sent, with no intimation, and the effect came.

Reichenbach found "that some bodies lost their power almost instantly, as paper; others after a few minutes; and in no case did the power lost remain in the body charged longer than ten minutes.

This was my general experience with the mesmeric influence.

But the longer the mesmerisation is continued, the greater and more lasting is the power: the more spongy or capable of retaining mesmerised moisture the substance, and the less the exposure, the longer does the power last.

The crystal and magnet power penetrates solid matter; through thick paper, wood, marble, slowly; through metals instantaneously, if the crystal is in contact with them, and exceedingly well if not in contact.

The charge could not be increased beyond a certain point, soon reached, according to the sensation of the patients. The charge of mesmerism can be increased to the point of perfect insensibility; but on the degrees of this capable of being effected I never made any trials.

When crystals were only an inch and a half long, their power was scarcely perceptible; above this size, their power increased with the dimensions, according to the law of nature that, *cæteris paribus*, power is proportionate to size.

Like the magnet, crystals caused the hand to follow them, and a flame proceeded from their poles.

Warmth did not increase the power of magnets or crystals.

3. *Effect of position in relation to the magnetic meridian.*

Mr. Schuh, a surgeon, had been accustomed on waking from his first sleep to change his position and place his head where his feet had been all night; and his short second sleep was then far more refreshing than all his previous sleep. If he omitted the change, he was weary all day. Reichenbach found that in his first sleep he lay from south to north; his head to the south, his feet to the north; in his second from north to south. On lying at first from north to south, he never had to change in the morning. Another surgeon, named Schmidt, had severe pains in his right arm, and shiverings; and a magnet only relieved him for the time. He always lay from south to north. He then lay from north to south, and the magnet was more pleasant, and the arm rapidly recovered. The first female patient in whom the phenomena with the magnet and crystals were detected always lay from east to west, and had a great magnet carrying eighty pounds, over her head, with no effect. She was placed from north to south, and instantly lost her restlessness, and had the first night of sound sleep for a long time.

At another time the position to the north was tried, and the effects were restlessness, flushing, oppression of the head, &c., and the same magnet instantly produced violent effects at the distance of four, nay, at seven paces from her head, immediately causing insensibility and spasm. When the armature was removed from it at the distance of thirty feet, she

felt nothing at first, but after a minute ceased speaking actually in the middle of a word. The four others shewed analogous differences; all positions, and especially that from west to east, except that from north to south, being unpleasant and injurious. Terrestrial magnetism is weakest at the full moon, when some nervous diseases are often the worst. The general position of many of the sick during the use of the magnet and the use of mesmerism demands serious consideration.

Though soft iron while in contact with a magnet is magnetic, it is thought to cease to be so as soon as removed; but the five females felt the same as from a weak magnet after its removal. They could distinguish a glass of water which had been placed between the poles of a horse-shoe magnet, and the hand of a cataleptic patient was attracted by it. These facts, with those mentioned at p. 114, shew that all substances suffer a temporary change from a magnet,—“a conclusion,” says R. “which people do not like to draw; against which, in fact, they have struggled hard *a priori* and which seems especially offensive to chemists.” A person magnetised by passes with a magnet could now, during a quarter of an hour, for the first time attract the hand of two of the patients. If he placed his hand in the patient's hand, she felt the pain in it move, swelling or throbbing, every time a magnet was passed down his back.

Now listen Sir Benjamin Brodie, you who in your vanity presumed, in the *Quarterly Review*, to stigmatize the Okeys as impostors; and you, Mr. Wakley, who traduced them and me, and ridiculed all my experiments; listen, ye professors and council of University College, who scorned the no less wonderful phenomena I displayed in your building; and listen the rest of you, medical men of all degrees, royal, fashionable, rural, parochial,—listen, and look back upon your conduct during the last eight years. If when Reichenbach drew a magnet or crystal several times down a patient's back she became catalepted and convulsed, the *same happened from his hands alone*. If he drew the fingers of his right hand successively along the palm, not in contact, all the susceptible women or men, felt a warm or cool air. Here was the influence of a living body. He next found it could be transmitted. If the patient held one end of packfong callipers, or an iron wire $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and he placed his five finger points of his right hand on the other, she felt at the point of contact, warmth up to the elbow; and, if he added his other five finger points the effect was twice as strong: on removing the fingers the sensation rapidly, but not instantly, ceased; and the results came and went just as the fingers were taken off and on.

These experiments were successfully tried on the rest, and also by different persons.

I have mesmerised a sovereign without the knowledge of the Okeys, and placed other unmesmerised sovereigns upon it, and a finger of one sister upon the last of them, and the effect has always at length come. When an unmesmerised roll of sovereigns has long lain in Mary Ann's hand without increase of effect, I have put my finger on the highest, and the effect presently became great.

Reichenbach and her confessor produced an equal effect on one female, and more effect than her physician, who was ten years younger than Reichenbach. The nurse produced less. Her sister, also a nervous patient, produced still less. Ten fingers of another lady produced less effect than five of Reichenbach's. Even some healthy men were thus susceptible.

The Baron thus played the fool so shockingly in his course of investigation, as to mesmerise. I must here quote my *Physiology*, p. 1175:

"By means of chargeable metals, I devised a mode of shewing very accurately the influence of health upon the mesmerising power. I took one of the sisters into a female ward in which she had never been, and respecting the inmates of which she and I were perfectly ignorant. Every ticket with the name of the disease on the head of the bed was removed: every patient had the clothes drawn completely over her. A sovereign, which had lain long untouched, and had therefore no mesmeric charge, was taken up by her, and we proceeded to the ward. She put the sovereign under the bed-clothes into the hand of each patient in succession, and at the same number of moments by my stop-watch took it out again and kept it in her hand. I noted the period in which the effect began, the length of time it lasted, and the amount of it,—whether it caused spasm of the hand only; of the hand and arm; or spasm and stupefaction. So we went round the ward, and in one bed, at the request of a certain student, I repeated the experiment. As soon as each experiment was finished, the bed-clothes were turned down and the ticket examined. The effects were in every instance precisely proportionate to the strength of the patient in whose hand the sovereign had been placed. Those in consumption or worn down with paralysis produced little or no effect: those who had complaints not impairing the health and strength produced full effect: and all the intermediate degrees were exquisitely proportionate to the condition of the patient. One patient had produced a great effect, who, the student said, was continually bled and kept constantly on low diet. But I found she had not been bled for some weeks, had been for some time on full diet, was taking bark, looked in capital condition, and had only some cutaneous disease not interfering with her strength. Of the two experiments made at one bed, the first had produced a full effect proportionate to the strength of the patient. The second experiment produced only a moderate effect: the clothes

were then turned down, and it proved that a nurse said to be in good health, and to do all the work of the ward, had been lain in it. The woman, however, looked very sickly, and I found that she had just lain in, and had come back to her place very weak, and long before she was competent. The experiment was triumphant, and an apology was the next day made to me by the student who had so misrepresented to me the state of those two patients, and at whose request I had willingly made the experiments in this his wise uncle's ward, because the results in the case of both sisters, perfectly accordant in every instance up to that time with the strength of each patient, though modified like all results in their form in each sister, had been made in my own ward, where they and I knew every patient.

"Another beautiful set of experiments was made with brutes. If their hand was brought into contact with a brute, the rapidity and intensity of the effect was always proportionate to the size of the animal. If their fingers were placed under the wing of a perouquet, the effect was much inferior to what it was if they were placed under the wings of a cockatoo. If placed on the nose of a small deer, the effect was inferior to what it was if placed upon a lama or a large deer:—a mere rigidity and concussion of the head in the first instance, stupefaction and at last perfect insensibility and relaxation in the latter. Contact of the ends of the fingers with the dry rough trunk of the elephant had no effect upon the elder: but, the instant she touched the soft moist mucous membrane of the trunk of this immense beast, she dropt senseless and snored loudly, and did not become sensible for ten minutes."

He found that the influence could be collected in a body. He held things in his hand, first warmed by the patients' hands, and gave them to the patients, who at once experienced the crystal effect, and distinguished substances not so held by him. The *charge* remained in the substances many minutes, and gradually wasted. He thus charged water, grasping the glass with both hands, and they distinguished it by the smell, taste, &c. "*Against* this statement," says Reichenbach, "all those may cry out who have never investigated the matter, and to the number of whom I formerly belonged: but of the fact, all those who have submitted to the labour of investigation, and have seen the effects I allude to, can only speak with amazement. This water, which is quite identical with that treated by the magnet or with the crystal, in all its essential properties, has, therefore, received from the fingers and hand abundant charge of the peculiar force residing in them, and retain this charge for some time and with some force."

I must here give another extract from my *Physiology*, p. 1174: "A beautiful experiment shewed the gradual diminution of the

power imparted to the gold: and could, for the most part, be made upon the younger Okey only, as her susceptibility was, in general, not so great as to show powerful effects from moderate causes. A sovereign is held in a person's hand, and then given her. Instantly her hand closes violently upon it, she becomes stupified with her eyes open, and at last falls senseless and relaxed: on waking, in a minute or two, she is desired to pick up the sovereign, and again it causes her hand to close, and stupifies her; yet not so soon but that she has time to rise a little from the floor, before the stupefaction and rigidity come; and the perfect sleep and relaxation are longer in supervening. On waking she is desired to pick up the sovereign again; the effects are longer in supervening, so that she rises higher from the floor before they come, and there is time, by pointing one's finger at her close hand, to cause it to relax, and drop the sovereign; and in consequence of the absence of this, the rigidity and stupefaction are not kept up, and terminate in waking instead of perfect sleep and relaxation. She is desired again to pick up the sovereign; she does so, and rises higher than ever before the effects come, and they are shorter. All is repeated, she rises completely before they come, and they are still shorter. Again all is repeated, and she not only rises but goes about, and talks before the effects come, and they are slight. On repetition a still longer time intervenes, and still slighter are the effects; and so experiment after experiment goes on till the sovereign has lost its power altogether. The sovereign often rolls far away; and in such cases it has been changed for one charged by contact with another person, it being impossible for her to observe the change and impossible for her to detect any difference in regard to warmth or moisture, as the original sovereign has been as much in her own hand as the new sovereign in the hand of another person. The new sovereign has always produced a far more quick and strong effect than the exhausted one."

He considers there is polarity even here: for, when the patient and he held one end of a spiral copper wire, 9 feet long, of eleven turns, he found the influence greatest at the other end, gradually less to the middle or sixth turn, from which it increased again till it was as strong at the opposite end as at her end. He conceives that the principal polar axis of the human body is transverse; the longitudinal being secondary, because sensitive patients suffer from lying with their body across the magnetic meridian. For if the body lies from east to west, it is differently acted upon magnetically in its breadth,—a thing intolerable to such persons: and chills are both more active and dangerous if they come from the side than if from the back or front: also because in very sensitive persons it makes a great difference which hand of another person is put into their hand.

"When the author placed his right hand in the left hand of Mlle. Maix, she felt it exactly like a small magnet or a crystal

placed with the N. pole perpendicularly on her hand. But if he gave the left hand, the feeling was very much more disagreeable. When he placed his right hand in her left, and his left hand at the same time in her right, she described the sensations as of a perpetual current of something up her right arm, across her breast and shoulders, down her left arm, and through him continually. It was painful, and nearly caused her to faint. If he now crossed his hands, she could not endure it, and declared that there then arose so painful a sensation of a strange kind of struggle and contest in her arms and through her breast, an undulation up the arm and down again, that she found it absolutely unendurable. In fact, after she had released her hands, it was found impossible to persuade her to repeat the experiment, which was always done if possible, for the sake of a check on errors. If, then, it be established by these experiments, that in nervous cases it is anything but indifferent which hand is given or taken, it follows that both hands, in respect to the influence residing in them, are not in the same condition; and it would even appear from the last experiment that there is a current, after the fashion of an electric current, from his left hand to her right, and then from her left to his right, a motion which meets with obstacles, and strives, as it were, to break through them, as soon as like hands are joined. This difference between the hands can only be due to polarization, as we see it artificially produced in the copper wire, and as we have found it in magnets and in crystals. In this point of view, the chief axis in man is transverse, and the long axis is only secondary. In fact, it is only transversely that we are formed of two symmetric halves. Everything, brain, organs of sense, organs of mastication and deglutition, arms, hands, and feet, are opposed to each other transversely; and it is especially transversely that we are polarized."

He confirmed these observations on two others of the females, and concludes,

"That all the symmetrically arranged organs of the body, and especially the hands, exhibit a difference, which is caused by a magnetic polar opposition; and that consequently there exists a dualism of the fundamental influence above alluded to, exactly as we have seen it to exist in crystals."

"Doubtless the perfectly healthy man, who probably is never sensitive, is in no way affected by the earth's magnetism, how strongly soever it may act on certain patients. The author has not been able in any animal, even in blind ones, such as larvae, to discover any evidence of an action being exerted on them by terrestrial magnetism. In this indifference, therefore, to the influence of the earth's magnetism, the force of crystals and that of the human hand fully agree."

I have a patient who in his deep sleep-waking would never allow one of his hands to be put in contact with the other, or with any part of the opposite half of his body, but moved it away very

angrily. Neither would he allow my right hand to touch his left, or any part of the right half of my frame to touch his left half, or the converse. In Vol. II., p. 215, I said, "As a further illustration of occult property in the mesmeric state, I have a patient who, in his silent sleep, with his eyes perfectly closed, and any thickness of cloth thrown over his head and chest and drawn close round him, is instantly distressed beyond measure by a piece of gold placed upon the back of his hand after lying in the hand of another person, but not at all if it has been taken from my hand. Any one with gloves on makes the experiment, placing the sovereign first on my hand or the hand of another at pleasure, in every succession and with as many repetitions as are thought proper. *Nay, if the gold is taken off my right hand and placed upon his left, or off my left and placed upon his right, he is distressed, and shakes it off, and, if it is placed in his palm, violent spasm of the hand occurs; though he expresses no uneasiness when it is taken from my right and placed in his right, or from my left and placed upon his left.* Neither temperature nor anything but occult property can explain these wonderful facts." If while his right hand was holding my right hand tightly, I touched any part of his left half or my left half with even one finger, he instantly let my hand go angrily, just as he did if I touched another person with it; and when ordinary ocular knowledge was an impossibility. He is a high-minded, modest youth, disdaining all affectation and artifice.

Baron R. found these patients in their cataleptic state—not mesmerised, observe—follow with their hands

"readily those of any vigorous young man, and indeed those of the author himself, insomuch that, while insensible, this attraction of the hand has often made them rise from their chair, and follow the hand for some distance. It was even possible to attract their hands through an intermediate substance, such as a lump of chalk held in the hands of the experimenter. . . . All these observations prove, that the hands and fingers of vigorous healthy men, like the poles of crystals, possess an attractive power for the hands of cataleptic patients.

"But, in this comparison, the luminous phenomena which are now to be described, constitute a really brilliant point. When the author, for the first time after her violent convulsions, saw Mdle. Reichel playing with the magnetic flame, he thrust his hand in the dark between her eyes and the magnet, when she began to play as before with the points of his fingers, and to speak of five little fires dancing about in the air. She did not see the hand, and she took the motion of his fingers, from the points of which flames came forth, for a spontaneous motion of the flames. She saw, in like manner, in the dark, flame from the points of all men's fingers, but from no women's, except in some cases a feeble light, neither bright nor flaming. As long as her illness continued, she amused herself and her friends by her observations on these lights. But after she had recovered, it came out that, not only during her illness, but

also when quite well, she saw the magnetic flame, the crystal lights, and the light from men's hands, provided it was dark enough. Indeed, she had possessed this power from her early youth; for while an infant, her mother had often to lift her up to convince her that nails and hooks in the wall were not on fire, as she declared them to be. She had even brothers and sisters who in like manner saw luminous appearances everywhere, where others saw nothing. At this time, the author makes use of her power daily in researches on electricity and magnetism, which will soon be made public, and which have, by her means, led to important results."

He concludes, at the 44th page, that

"This force, which has been called animal magnetism, has the following properties; it is, namely, conductible through other bodies; it may be communicated to other bodies either by directly charging them or by its dispersion. It soon disappears, but not immediately, from bodies charged with it. It assumes a polar arrangement in the animal body, by virtue of its apparent dualism. It has no marked relation to the earth's magnetism. It attracts mechanically the hands of cataleptic patients, and its presence is associated with luminous phenomena. In all these points it agrees with the force of crystals, with which it coincides, and in all particulars obeys the same physical laws as that force."

Mesmerism is thus placed by a philosopher, who was no mesmerist, among the physical sciences.*

* It is not very uncommon for patients during mesmerism to see light from the fingers, &c., of the operator. Mr. D. Hands has sent me the following account:—

"In compliance with your request, dear Dr. Elliotson, I proceed to transcribe for you the graphic description one of my somnambulant patients gives of that which is now very generally called mesmeric fluid. I shall endeavour to adhere as closely as possible to her own diction, which is original, quaint, and frequently piquant; only premising that the expressions are those she makes use of in the clairvoyant state, and that she is a simple, uneducated servant girl, about twenty years of age. Her case presents the most remarkable phenomena I have ever witnessed, but as it is my intention to publish the whole with all its interesting minutiae very shortly, I shall at present confine myself to the delineation of that appearance you enquired about.

"This mesmeric fluid, then, is compared by Martha to a clear stream of light issuing from the ends of my fingers, very bright and 'quivering, not glimmering,' resembling in colour and brilliancy the rays of the sun more than the milder silvery light of the moon, and resting on the mesmerised persons as a track of a phosphoric match would be seen on wood in the dark, but brightly loading and illuminating the head and brain and seat of muscular motion, or the heart; or, as I should say in anatomical language, the head, comprising the cerebrum and cerebellum. These all retain the dazzling transparent brilliancy, the limbs are equally lightened up, but they soon lose the brightness. If the foregoing statement be received as a fact, would it not account for the gradual and progressive increase of the influence over those who are daily mesmerised?—the nobler parts of the human structure possessing a capability of containing this fluid as it were in store, to be developed as occasion requires or according to the will of the mesmeriser.

Time and space fail me, and I must finish my account of this most remarkable, most original, and most important work in the next number; entreating every person interested in mesmerism to purchase Dr. Gregory's book in the meantime. My own observations in mesmerism made eight years ago coincide in every point with those of the author which are analogous. Every one of his observations I feel must be true. I formerly prosecuted the physics of mesmerism much more than had been done by others, and I see in Baron Riechenbach's statements of his experience, in what is really another field of the same estate, pure truth. He has only to make artificial sleep-wakers and cataleptics, and thus enlarge his means of experience, in order to be enabled to strike a rock and pour forth a mighty stream of knowledge for our benefit. To Dr. William Gregory we are deeply indebted.

That there was a distinct power for which I adopted the term mesmerism, after finding it used by Mr. Chenevix, but whether invented or not by him I knew not, I was satisfied; and stated in my demonstrations at University College Hospital in 1838, and subsequently in my own house. I also declared I could discover no grounds for supposing it identical with electricity or magnetism, and therefore preferred an arbitrary name to one which implied a speculation. I never ventured to call it an imponderable, because I did not know whether there are any imponderable bodies. I invariably called it a power, force, or influence, expressing a mere fact—the existence of a certain power in animal bodies, both human and brute; and of its existence in the latter, I gave sufficient proofs. But whether this was a property of the forms and states of matter with which we are acquainted, or of a peculiar matter, I never ventured to determine: its existence in animal bodies being the fact, it having a peculiar matter imponderable and subtle, being a mere speculation and fancy. I always gave ample proofs of its communi-

"When Martha first spoke of this bright flame, I questioned her as to what it was like. She answered, 'Like smoke; like steam; like vapour. But no; it is distinctly different from each. I don't know what it is like.' And then after appearing puzzled and perplexed in wishing me to comprehend her meaning, she said, 'It resembles the phenomena often observable in a hay-field from the currents of cold and hot air mingling, but the one mounting up whilst the other is falling down; or you may liken it to the mixing of spirits and water.'

"As regards the operation of mesmerising water, this same somnambulist described the fiery fluid as dropping in quivering streams from the tips of my fingers to the bottom of the glass, till all the liquid was wholly illuminated, brilliant, and transparent, very similar in appearance to the pale lemon-coloured show bottles in a druggist's shop when lit up by the gas lamps placed behind them."

cability to inanimate matter, by the mesmerisation of metals, water, &c. : its gradual wasting again : its transmission through substances transparent and opaque.

The time is now arrived for the appreciation of the facts of the cases of the two Okeys, and I will take the earliest opportunity of drawing them up from my voluminous notes. To have presented them to the world before would have been idle. Mr. Wakley had declared them all to be "humbug," and humbug the envious unreflecting medical world therefore authoritatively told all the rest of the world that they were, and humbug the rest of the world at once believed them, foolishly supposing that medical men had condescended to make themselves acquainted with the subject, and were studious, enlightened, and calmly reflecting philosophers.

(To be continued in No. XIV.)

XI. *Observations upon the Analogies between the Mesmeric and Magnetic Phenomena.* By JOHN ASHBURNER, M.D.

SOME of the most interesting as well as most important among the facts which have come under the observation of the cultivators of mesmeric science, relate to the analogies between the mesmeric and magnetic fluids. That these exist is an assumption based upon the direction taken by certain currents of forces, and by the light emitted under certain circumstances when particular arrangements of matter are attended by its evolution. Abstractedly considered, there is no proof that magnetic matter exists, and its entity is granted only to account for numerous phenomena which require explanation and which can be accounted for only by a hypothetical reality. In the present state of our knowledge, the eagerness to carp at new facts, and the tendency to disputation, form the drag-chain to stay the rapidity of scientific progression ; and it is only by such a cultivation of the mind of the masses as to permit the reception of new ideas, new trains of reasoning, the original thoughts of intellects wider than those of the common herd, that the vulgar opposition to truth can be overcome.

Assuming that electric and that magnetic currents exist, we may infer that a fluid in many particulars analogous to magnetism may be proved. We may be led to infer from numerous observations made at different times by numerous persons, that certain effects are produced by the operation of an influence from one living human being upon another. An endeavour will be made to shew that this influence, indebted

for its existence perhaps to psychological causes, operates by the agency of a supposed fluid, which, producing physiological phenomena similar to those produced by the magnetic fluid, may be inferred to be analogous to it. Striking facts may be adduced, too, which may tend to the conclusion that the exercise of the faculties of the human mind, and particularly that of the will, is attended by the emanation of a fluid from the brain, from the fingers, seats of the functional extremities of nerves, or from some part of the person who may be exercising the mental faculties. I propose to shew that the same series of events may be produced in individuals of a certain nervous diathesis by the impingement of a fluid evolved by the will of another; or by manipulations attended by the emanation of the same fluid; or by certain emanations from magnets, or from some metallic wires through which currents of electricity are passed; or from the direct application of certain metals. I do not attempt to establish the identity of these fluids, for the facts daily developing themselves tend to shew that the distinctive properties of these fluids are as various as the substances from which they emanate, and it may be that the great power antecedent to all consequents may ordain the simplicity and unity of one electric, and gravitating with centrifugal force, evolving an infinite complication and variety of magnetic cohesive and repulsive agencies; the entire system emerging from the *volonté directing "La Grande Formule"*

An attempt to satisfy stiff and superficial thinkers by demonstrations to which they cannot yield their inflexible and gnarled habits of trained reflection, is but an idle occupation. To apprehend ideas that are out of the ordinary trains of men's habitual thoughts, there must be a flexibility of mind. The child's facile uptake of its alphabet, and quick apprehension of facts, its joyous perception of novelties, contrasts strongly with the stolidity of the hind who has passed his life in the sameness of low agricultural drudgery. Let any one try what years ago it was my lot to essay,—to teach poor children and their adult parents, in a remote agricultural district, the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and this observation will not long want his assent. Let the same person study with an open mind the phenomena connected with the nervous system, and seek for the interesting facts poured in great abundance on the world of late years by the students of animal magnetism; and if he see no reason to deplore the inflexibility of mind and the illogical trains of thought which characterize the great majority of would-be philosophers, he must himself belong to their stupid phalanx.

I shall not pretend to labour for the sake of conversion or for the love of controversy. I have only to state facts which may be proved by testimony as good as any that ordinarily directs the force of conviction; facts that, for the most part, may be observed by any one who will exercise the requisite patience and perseverance in watching for them.

It is a common observation that, for the most part, those persons who are by mesmeric treatment put into a state of somnambulism, exhibit sincerity and truthfulness. The manners become easy, familiar, and confiding. With them rank has no existence. Equality of station is established, and nature is supreme until the progress of magnetic development places the individual in relation to external objects in a condition to exercise all the cerebral organs in the same manner as in ordinary vigilance. Even then when the sleep-waker has returned to a knowledge of this artificial world, and tastes of the fraudulent practices which govern mankind in their daily intercourse, the exceptions to a love of candour and sincerity seem to be dependent upon the existence of an unusually large size of those cerebral organs which in the wide-awake state determine the habit of loving falsehood better than truth. It would be useless to enlarge upon this point to experienced mesmerists, and the objection that deceit has frequently been met with in sleep-wakers would apply with far greater force, if statistics could be resorted to, against a large majority of persons wide awake.

Human testimony is, or is not, credible according to the circumstances under which it is elicited. If the individual stating certain matters be in a sane condition of mind, and of character habitually sincere and truthful, there is no reason to doubt the veracity of that individual. If that person be supported in testimony by another equally above suspicion, the facts stated have an additional value. If corroborations to stated facts be afforded by a number of persons unconnected with each other,—some unknown to each other,—these give additional value to the testimony; and supposing the facts to have been witnessed at different periods of time,—in different places and by different persons, who had not only no cognizance of each other, but who could have no idea that similar events to those in course of observation had been witnessed by others,—these suppositions would tend very far to complete the reliance to be placed upon the matters testified. Although it might occasionally happen that some of the witnesses to a fact might not fulfil every one condition required by a sceptic, yet there is such abundant evidence on which to rest the truth of the chain of facts I shall adduce, that I willingly leave it to find its way.

In the month of August, 1842, I first magnetized Jane Love, a young woman then about 23 years age, of tall stature, ample frame, with dark hair and eyes, neuro-sanguineo temperament. She had been my patient at the Middlesex Hospital for some months previously for a painful tumor in the right hypogastrium, which I considered to be ovarian. She had undergone much medical treatment without the slightest alleviation of her symptoms, and had latterly been losing flesh. Her mother told me that several doctors in the country and in London had prognosticated a progressive emaciation of the body and an enlargement of the tumor, until a period should arrive when the young woman would die of dropsy. Her complexion was half waxy, half sodden, of a green hue, insomuch that at the hospital she was compared to green "wax-work." Having undergone the routine treatment in our establishment,—purgatives, alteratives, depuratives, emmenagogues, narcotics, having been unintentionally salivated, all without the slightest benefit, I determined to try the experiment of mesmerising her. I effected my object by pointing at her eyes with two fingers, and she went to sleep in less than an hour. The relief obtained was so striking that I made her attend at my house for three hours every morning to have the benefits of the magnetic sleep. At first it was necessary to bring her to me in a cab, for she was not able to walk the distance of two miles from her own residence to my house. On the fourth morning, she dispensed with the vehicle, but she was much exhausted on her arrival, and the agony of the tumor was very great. It was attended with nausea, retching, and sense of bearing down, with pain between the scapulæ. I mesmerised her and she had a most refreshing sleep of three hours. The passes down the back and the arms made her rigid. The eyeballs on examination were found to be turned upwards. The pulse, first at 120, fell to 84, was full and soft. The improvement in her condition was very gratifying. She had come into the house extremely ill, and suffering much; she went out perfectly relieved and walked home with ease and with cheerful spirits. On the eleventh day, this young woman, who had not been able for two years to mount a flight of stairs, responded to the mesmeric beckoning, and followed me in her sleep up twenty-four steps to my drawing rooms, where she walked in and out among the furniture, and after sitting down for five minutes in a deep sleep, again followed me, descending the stairs and returning to her seat in the library. I did not perform the phrenological experiments upon her head until I had given her the advantages of

deep and placid sleep with occasional passes to produce the rigidity, which these patients find so refreshing, for a space of three weeks. She had repeatedly broken out into fits of laughter, and had spoken a few sentences during this time, but as the effort to make her converse caused confusion in her head, I allowed the phenomena scope for development before any number of experiments were tried. When at last I excited Mirth by placing my fingers on the organ of gaiety, she laughed most joyously. I found that by exciting the organ of Tune, she sang; by exciting Imitativeness, she mimicked. I pursued the experiments, and had reason to conclude that though some organs responded very well, yet that the range in her head was limited. Language, Weight, Size, Individuality, Tune, Gaiety, Imitation, Benevolence, Veneration, Self-esteem, Adhesiveness, Acquisitiveness, Secretiveness, Alimentiveness, are all that I have been able to excite to clear manifestation. The excitation of Destructiveness and Combativeness produce discomfort, but do not manifest the usual phenomena. It is remarkable that in her sister's head the excitation of these organs is attended by very violent effects. In Jane, the sympathies of taste and sensation with the mesmeriser are very remarkably exhibited. I come now to the point for which I adduce this case an illustration. Not until Jane had been daily mesmerised for five weeks did she exhibit the curious phenomenon of the perception of a light from the upper part of her forehead. On the first morning that this attracted my attention, I saw her sitting very quietly sleeping with her head slightly bent forward. She was not so joyous as usual, and appeared absorbed in attention. Presently she said, "O how lovely—how beautiful." I asked what was so lovely and beautiful. "Oh, that charming blue light, how bright! It's like the sky! It's like violets! Oh! the room is all sunshine. Now it's all the colours of the rainbow: now it's all clear bright light: now it's beautiful sky-blue. I would like to have a gown of that colour." Upon being asked how she saw this light, she said that it was from this part, placing her hands above her forehead, and shutting and opening them as if she were desirous of catching something. She had repeatedly drank mesmerised water, and had taken it always for a mixture of brandy and soda water. Up to this time she had always taken me for her sister Harriet. Nothing could induce her to believe that I was not Harriet, and some comic scenes had been exhibited with a coloured horse-blanket, which although she was sitting or standing, she would take for her bed covering, and when I pulled it away from her, she

would insist on the unfairness of Harriet's taking a larger share of the bed and the coverings than she was entitled to. If she were asked where she was, she would stoutly aver that she was lying down in her bed, although she was perfectly erect and made to walk about the room. When the development of light reached her, however, she no longer took me for her sister; she knew me for the doctor. Previously she heard only her mesmeriser, now she saw and heard every body in the room, and distinguished the colour and other peculiarities of dress of every individual. Now when I mesmerised water by darting my fingers upon its surface, she described "beautiful blue sparks" as going from the tips of my fingers into the water; sometimes they were like large spangles. The operation of mesmerising water always rivetted her attention, and she eagerly drank the water as soon as she could get it. One morning I gave her six tumblers full of mesmerised water, which she swallowed with voracity and very evident satisfaction. I said, "So much brandy and soda water will disagree with you." "What nonsense," she replied, "it's not brandy and soda water,—it's *mesmerised water*." From that time she never entertained the hallucination which had previously possessed her, nor was she conscious that she had ever held mesmerised water to be aught but what it was. Finding now that when I beckoned her or exerted tractive movements, she could see what I did, I tried the experiment of silently willing her to come to me when I sat at several yards from her. I had heard of Mr. H. Thompson's experiments with the will long before I had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and I tried the force of the will in this case, but in her state of sleep-waking, and I succeeded so far as to make her get up from her sleep and walk up to me. She always fell into the profound unconscious sleep after I had made this experiment. She described a rope of blue light proceeding from my eyes to her head whenever I willed her. She said it pulled her so hard she could not resist it; she was obliged to come up to me. I have repeatedly asked her about the size of this rope of light, and her answer was always that it was in strings, all in lines together as thick as her arm, most frequently blue, but sometimes all the colours of the rainbow.

I have occasionally sat reading while this patient has been sleeping in a chair near me; but invariably, whenever my attention has been rivetted to the subject, she has got up with her hands to her head and approached me, begging me to lay down the book, for my head was covered with a blue cloud which affected her very disagreeably. If I persisted

in reading, she became vexed, and said that her head would split.

By those who have not studied the facts resulting from mesmeric events, I may be, as I have been, charged with great credulity. The habits of education have modified the brains of these people who so accuse me. They have not apprehended the philosophy of Gall. Perhaps the habit of resting on foregone conclusions has so obtunded their perceptions, that certain kinds of facts do not find admission into their minds, and they pity my credulity; while I deeply regret that they cannot participate in the delight which I experience in bringing out new trains of ideas, founded on fresh developments of truth, which are destined to enlighten mankind on the most sublime subjects that can arrest the attention of philosophers.

These details shew that magnetic sleep is induced by the pointing of two of my fingers to the eyes of this young woman. I have often produced the same kind of sleep by passing my hands alternately, at the distance of half an inch from the surface of her head and face, down from the crown of the head to the pit of the stomach; by darting my fingers at her face; by darting them at the nape of her neck; by standing before her and willing her to go to sleep; by standing at some distance behind her and willing her to go to sleep: often even when she was unconscious that I was doing it, as I shewed before an audience at the Polytechnic Institution, on an occasion when the Directors were kind enough to permit me to make use of some of their splendid apparatus for my experiments; and as I have shewn to hundreds besides. I have a right to infer that these effects are produced by the emanation of a fluid from my person, which has been seen by this person herself when I have mesmerised water, when I have mesmerised other persons, when I have willed her to sleep, or when I have willed her to get up and to walk across a long room. The blue streams of light, the blue sparks from my fingers, have been seen not by Jane only, but by other persons in a state of magnetic sleep; and by other persons as well as by herself in the ordinary condition of waking or vigilance. That the exercise of thought is accompanied by some emanation from the brain, is manifest from Jane's repeated observation of a blue cloud of light over my head, whenever I concentrated my mind in reading. Other patients have told me the same thing. Except upon the idea of an emanation of fluid or influence from one person to another, how is the following fact to be accounted for? The Prince de ——— could speak only a few words of English. He agreed with me, in another room, before the *séance* one morn-

ing, that he was to think intently of a wish to kiss Jane, when she should be seated in a state of somnambulism. We went into the library, and Jane having been put to sleep, the Prince approached her and did just as he proposed. The young woman started, put up her hands repelling him, and declaring that "she should do no such thing." The Prince then spoke his wish in Italian, and with the same repulsive gesture as before she said, "I won't suffer it—you shan't do it."

How, except upon the existence of a magnetic light emanating from one person to another, and passing through a thick opaque bookcase full of books and a wall dividing the rooms, could be accounted for the fact repeatedly observed and testified by Mr. Marsh, the bookseller, of Old Cavendish Street, and by others, of Jane's seeing and stating, while in my library, what I was about in my breakfast-room? She has described my burning my lips with hot tea; my handing my cup for more sugar; my cutting slices of ham; my buttering dry toast and cutting it into strips; all which things I had done, not suspecting that Jane was a spectator of my actions. One morning, in her sleep, the Brazilian minister and his lady being present, she suddenly cast her attention to a distance of two miles, and described an arrival of which it was clear that she could have previously known nothing. She went on to state a series of events which were occurring there while she was in my house, and I went over and fully ascertained the accuracy of her narrative. How can this be accounted for except upon the admission of the existence of a magnetic light or fluid travelling to or from her brain, rendering her cognizant of the events which were occurring?

I have a letter from a lady of noble birth, and of unimpeachable veracity, in which is given a detail of a number of circumstances described by Jane Love while she was in mesmeric sleep fifty miles in the country, relating to events in the interior of a house in Eaton Square, into which the young woman had never set her foot. The facts are incontrovertible.

I have endeavoured to shew that a fluid passes in these cases as in the exercise of the will, and that opaque walls and distance form no obstacle to the passage of this magnetic fluid, any more than to the magnetic fluid which reaches the needle of the compass from the North Pole, and directs the mariner in his course aright. Mr. Kiste told me that he had repeatedly induced sleep in a child by will at the distance of several miles when he was in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, and that the fact was known to hundreds of witnesses. Mr. Thompson, of Fairfield Lodge, York, has exercised the will at several miles' distance with striking effects. There are various

results produced by the fluid of the will by different persons. Mr. Thompson can will certain individuals to perform certain actions while they continue awake. If I try the same experiment on the same individuals, I produce deep sleep. In mesmerising a gentleman who is very refined in his perception of the differences of influence between different mesmerisers, Mr. Thompson's influence was said to be clear and light, while mine was dull, harsh, and heavy: Mr. Thompson's was very agreeable,—mine was overpowering, and produced the deep sleep: Mr. Thompson's was compared to the passage of a mail-coach wheel,—mine to a broad heavy wagon wheel. These striking differences are but specimens of the vast variety of character to be observed in the mesmeric influences of different persons. They are probably as numerous as the individuals of mankind.

I adduce a case to illustrate further some of the points we have been considering.

In the month of June, 1844, Miss C—— came to consult me. Her health had been very seriously affected for two years. She had a slight figure with a large head. The temperament was nervous; the hair and eyes black; complexion sallow. Her brain was of a high order, and her mind had been well cultivated. She had so happy a proportion between the moral and intellectual qualities, that her case could not fail in phreno-mesmerism to be one of deep interest. Her features were admirably formed, and her beauty rendered the physiognomy of her feelings very charming. She was cured, under my care, by mesmerism, of a complaint that had simulated some of the forms of organic malignant disease. It was at first very difficult to affect her, and she at no time lost her primary or vigilant consciousness during her mesmeric sleep. She responded to the excitation of the phrenological organs, and felt obliged to obey the will of the mesmeriser up to the point of following him about the room; but if she were commanded to do anything very repulsive to her feelings, she became awake instantly and suddenly. To witness the grace of this beautiful female in the state of mesmeric sleep-waking—the delicacy of her poses, and the the physiognomy resulting from her refined feelings, was very high enjoyment. I introduce this case for the purpose of stating a fact I witnessed myself. I proposed one morning to exercise the will in silently commanding this young lady to come to me at the distance of twenty-four feet. Her mother was present, and there was a playful recommendation to resist the power of my will. I was determined that she should obey, and I spoke out my determination, which put

the young lady upon her mettle, and she was at first equally resolute that she would not obey. I continued to will for about six minutes, concentrating all my ideas on the resolution. At last, I saw her covered with a violet coloured halo. She burst into tears, and very unwillingly yielded her obedience, not without continuing to resist at every step she took in advancing towards me.

The case which follows further illustrates the facts relating to the existence of the blue fluid in mesmerism.

Mrs. A——, a young married lady, was cured by mesmerism of an extremely painful neuralgic affection of the bladder. After she had been magnetized about a fortnight, having up to that time exhibited only heavy sleep, she responded to a large proportion of the cerebral organs. She took me always for her mother up to a certain day, nearly six weeks from the first time I put her to sleep. Then she knew me quite well, and I could no longer will the water I mesmerised and gave her to drink to be anything but mesmerised water. Before that time, I could make her believe it was camomile tea, coffee, Port wine. I failed if I wished it to be Sherry or Madeira, but always succeeded if I wished it to be lemonade. When this lady had lucidity enough to see me and to know me for myself, she could see me dart blue sparks into a glass of water whenever I mesmerised it; and if I passed my hand over any other person, that individual became quite clear to her; and she said that in such cases she always perceived blue streams of light from my finger-ends. If I willed, she saw blue streams of light issuing from my eyes. If I made passes rapidly down her own person or down that of any other individual, she said she saw a blue light in streaks, which resembled a beautiful striped satin ribbon. Several of my patients in lucid mesmeric sleep-waking have compared the appearance presented on my making rapid passes to very brilliantly coloured blue satin striped ribbons.

The next case is interesting, and continues my train of evidence.

Sophia Jones, 32 years of age, dark brown hair, grey eyes, short stature, pale complexion, a dress-maker, was for two years subject to copious discharges of blood from the bowels. Sometimes the quantity amounted to a pint; occasionally there was mixed with the blood an amount of pus. There was a sense of constriction across the abdomen, and a soreness and pain increased on pressure in the right hypochondrium. This patient knew when she was to expect a loss of blood by an unusual tightness of the integuments of the

head, and sometimes on these occasions her sight would fail her. She complained of great thirst and want of appetite. Her bowels were relaxed, the motions were very dark; the catamenia regular, but scanty in quantity and lasting only one day. She was much emaciated; coughed and expectorated matter, sometimes tinged with blood. She had a small thready pulse of 120. The sounds on percussion and auscultation were not insisted upon, because there was difference of opinion upon the subject, more especially when it was announced that this patient was to be mesmerised. She had been for eleven months an in-patient of the Middlesex Hospital, under the care of Dr. Wilson, and very nearly two years under various treatment at that establishment. The first time I saw her was on an occasion of my accompanying Dr. Wilson from the wards through the hospital passages, when he asked her how she was. She looked very cadaverous, and was much exhausted from the blood she had lost on that day. From the striking effects which mesmerism had produced in menorrhagia, I felt much disposed to try its efficacy in this case. Dr. Wilson was desirous too of the trial, and I appointed the next day at my own house for the experiment.

At nine in the morning of the 20th of June, 1844, Sophia Jones first came to me. Under the operation of the fingers pointed to her eyes and of slow passes, she fell asleep in three minutes, and continued in a calm deep slumber for an hour and a quarter. The next day, three minutes sufficed to put her again into a very tranquil sleep, which lasted upwards of two hours. She felt much disposed to lie down, and chose the hearth rug as the most convenient place for her repose. Here she soon began to chuckle and laugh, talked, and got up to walk about the room. I gave her a glass of mesmerised water, and while I was mesmerising it, she exclaimed, "What beautiful bright-coloured spangles!" "Of what colour are they, and whence do they proceed?" she was asked. Her reply was, that "they were all the colours of the rainbow, and proceeded from my finger-ends to the surface of the water, which shone with a beautiful light. Oh, how delightful!" "Tell me," I said, "what colours do you distinguish?" "There are red and yellow spangles among them, but most of them are blue and violet." She drank the water, and was evidently much exhilarated by it. I made long passes from her head to her feet and she became very quiet, said that the room was so full of light she could not see anybody, she was so dazzled by the light. Shortly she put herself down on the hearth rug, and with the excep-

tion of a little fit of laughter now and then, continued the rest of her time in a calm sleep. In the course of a week, sleeping daily on her favorite rug and covered over with a horse blanket, her head resting on a cushion while I attended to other matters, her health was strikingly improved; and at the same time, she exhibited symptoms of a progress in clairvoyance. She referred the light to the upper part of her forehead; sometimes said "it was of a beautiful sky-blue colour,—sometimes all the colours of the rainbow." With the blanket covering her head, her face being turned to the wall, she has not unfrequently described the dress of persons both male and female who have entered the room, even an hour after she has been lying down in the position stated,—her back being towards the parties. If under these circumstances I threw some sparks at her, she spoke of their influence being very agreeable, and was delighted in describing their colours, so brilliant and yellow and blue. Sometimes she has spoken of occurrences in the streets; then she would revert to me, and if I went into the dining room to breakfast, she would describe to persons remaining in the library, occurrences taking place in the room in which I happened to be. She has gone to sleep at eight in the morning in the library, the servant has taken up the breakfast things at nine into the dining room, she has described to me what he has been doing, the colour and pattern of the plates, the urn, the tea-pot, the pattern of the damask table cloth. One morning she was puzzled about the contents of an oval dish, which she described very accurately as being placed upon a side table with a knife and fork in front of it,—the gilt rim of the dish and a colored landscape in its centre. She could not make out the remains of a ham, which she spoke of as having four large red knobs. I went into the room and found a large ham bone which she had very accurately described. There was very little meat upon it, and when I returned and told her what it was, she apprehended at once the real thing, and observed that it should not appear again, for it was too shabby to put upon table. It must be remembered that she was on the floor, her head and body covered with a blanket, and a bookcase full of books besides a wall interposed between her and the objects which she beheld and clearly described. Here was another instance of transmission of light through opaque masses of matter from or to her cerebral organs.

Sophia Jones had been mesmerised for more than three months daily; had, upon an average, slept for two hours each time. She lost her cough and expectoration; was very

seldom troubled with discharges of blood from the bowels, and when the occurrence did take place it resulted in consequence of some error in diet, and was insignificant in quantity. She gained flesh, had colour in her cheeks, and was more cheerful in her spirits. I took her one day into my bath room, where I mesmerised a glass of water for her to drink before she went away. She exclaimed, "What beautiful blue sparks of light I see from your fingers' ends going into the water, I never saw such a thing before." On this occasion she was wide awake. This patient, of so susceptible a nervous character, responded to a very limited range of phrenological organs. Mirth, Imitation, Benevolence, Melody, and Adhesiveness were the most remarkable. From the first occasion of her sleep she never mistook me for any other person.

Maria M ———, aged 26, black eyes, black hair, very slight figure, well made, but of short stature; head rather large. Occupation,—straw plaiter. Married. This patient has been afflicted for six years and a half with a burning pain in the epigastrium, and the pain increased upon pressure in the left hypochondrium, extending to the hip on the same side. Appetite bad. Spirits always very low. Catamenia scanty; regular in their period, but lasting only a day and a half. Takes care that by the aid of medicine her bowels are regular. Pulse weak, irritable; 90 in a minute. Has applied to several physicians successively; has found no relief. I magnetized her seven times for three-quarters of an hour each time, before I succeeded in inducing sleep. Afterwards she slept soundly about two hours daily.

On the 23rd of June, 1844, I have this note,—*"Maria M ——— has slept nearly four hours. She takes me for her husband and is very cross. Upon Adhesiveness and Benevolence being excited she becomes very amiable; but she does not respond strikingly to many of the phrenological organs. When awake she is much attached to her husband who comes to walk home with her."* This patient had been with me daily for fifteen days. It was three weeks more before she saw light from the upper part of her forehead, and in nine days more she recognized me as the doctor. She relished mesmerised water at all times. Now she saw me when I threw "beautiful blue sparks into it." Her health was completely re-established without an atom of medicine, and she acquired the habit of daily visiting the closet without her former physic.

Lady ——— was repeatedly magnetized by me during several months. She saw during her waking state blue globules of light along the internal surface of my hand and

fingers, and issuing from the fingers' ends, before her eyes were closed.

Mrs. K., aged 27, light hair, grey eyes, tall stature, large head, is very susceptible of being magnetically influenced. After I had magnetized her seven times, she could in her state of ordinary wakefulness see the sparks emitted from the ends of my fingers when I mesmerised water, or when I threw them by passes upon any other person. She cannot see the light from my eyes during the operation of willing while she is awake, but if I put her to sleep, she sees the light immediately, and she describes it as passing in blue streaks from my eyes to the person or object willed. If I will the back of a chair to be magnetized, she cannot put her hand upon it without her hand being spasmodically closed and rigidly grasped upon the chair-back.

Four other patients besides these have seen blue sparks from my fingers when I mesmerised water. These persons were severally in their ordinary wakeful state—in primary consciousness. Several of the patients having described to me during their sleep the issuing of a light blue or grey cloud of light from my electro-magnetic coils, I was induced to make experiments upon them with various electric and magnetic apparatus. On placing Jane Love in communication with the prime conductor of a small cylindrical electrifying machine, I produced such a fearful state of convulsions with temporary paralysis of the whole left side of her body, that I was not eager to try the experiment again. Mr. W. was placed on a large insulating stool at the Polytechnic Institution, and in connexion with the prime conductor of the magnificent plate machine. The discomfort produced in him lasted for several days. When these patients were submitted to the influence of the electro-magnetic apparatus, having been previously mesmerised to sleep, it invariably deepened the sleep. I tried this experiment with eight other cases, and found that the results were similar. In two cases of extreme nervous susceptibility, there was very deep coma with stertor.

Finding that in some I observed deepened sleep from the application of the electro-magnetic apparatus, and that in others there was superadded great rigidity of the whole muscular system, I constructed a helix of wire, of such a size as would enable me to cover any person seated in a chair. It was of an oval form, 8 feet in circumference, made of iron wire, a quarter of an inch in diameter, which was coiled fifty-six times in a height of thirty-three inches. With this apparatus I have been able to make some curious observations. On the 4th of December, 1845, I put a man, aged 45, of strong

nerves, within this coil, and then passed a current of electricity through the wire by means of a large pair of Smees's galvanic plates. He sat for two hours apparently quite unaffected by the magnetic influence. The next morning he went in again, and in less than twenty-five minutes complained of great giddiness and sickness. I removed the apparatus, and desired the man to lie down. He said that he felt as if he had been recovering from drunkenness. He walked home, and on his way through the streets as well as for several days afterwards, at intervals, he felt as if he was enveloped in a *light grey smoke*. By daily mesmerising this person for three-quarters of an hour, at eight o'clock every morning, for three months, I have produced the magnetic sleep.

Mrs. Cottrell, who often saw blue fluid proceeding from me when I willed any one to do my silent bidding, has repeatedly, during her magnetic sleep, observed that there was a cloud of greyish-blue light about this magnetic helix. She has said of a strong boy, who has been submitted to this apparatus for two hours four times a week during three months, and who is very somnolent while he sits in it, that there are a heap of greyish-blue sparks going up to him from the wires. If I make her touch the wires, she instantly sleeps heavily and becomes quite rigid and insensible.

Mrs. H——, the wife of a well-known surgeon, cannot stay in the room while the current is passing through the wire. In her primary waking state, she sees a light coming from my large horse-shoe magnet, and cannot remain in the same room with it without going to sleep very heavily.

Mrs. K——, when she is wide awake, sees bright sparks from the wires of my helix when the apparatus is in action, a grey cloud issuing from it, and a heavy sleep results if she stands too near it.

Mrs. H——, a lady of highly nervous temperament, at first sees nothing emanating from the apparatus. If she stands near the wires or touches them, the sensation is very agreeable; she sees light, feels lifted up from the ground, and falls back in sleep, quite rigid and insensible.

Harriet P—— is similarly affected; sees blue light within the apparatus and red without. But the most striking results are seen in the case of Mary Ann Douglas, who sees the blue sparks within the coil and the red light without, in a few seconds falls asleep, and becomes extremely rigid. Unmagnetized iron applied to the back of the neck relaxes the tonic spasm in these patients, and speedily wakens them.

In six of these patients, sleep and rigidity of the muscles are produced by the application of gold to the back of the

head, between the insertion of the trapezii muscles. In Jane Love's and Mary Ann Douglas's cases, this metal and platinum produce a sense of burning, and leave the painful sensation for sometimes forty-eight hours.

I forbear to state the result of my further experiments with the metals, in the hope that Dr. Elliotson will one day publish his original experiments with these substances upon the girls Okey: mine are but repetitions and corroborations of what he has established, except in the case of mercury. A very curious fact presents itself with regard to this metal when applied to the palm of the hand in the sleep-waking state. In all cases of high nervous susceptibility in which I have yet tried the experiment, immediate rigidity of the side occurs; the patient exclaims with pain before the coma comes on, the access of which is very rapid; and on recovering a little, great pain is felt on the side of the face. A burning sensation all down the same side of the body, and the next day a painful mercurial sore mouth on one side of the face—that on which the application has been made to the hand—has supervened, and has been accompanied by the foster of the breath: an influence peculiar to the metal mercury has been communicated to the system. The sleep and rigidity are results common to some other metals and to magnetic iron, and to the mesmeric passes and to the exercise of the human will. Do not these facts tend to establish something like the existence of an influence?—let it be blue fluid or grey. Let future observers find their patients' relation of the colour to be some other belonging to the prismatic spectrum. I have put down facts enough to excite further enquiry, which seems to have been more or less at rest from April, 1786, when Tardy de Montravel published his *Journal du Traitement Magnétique de la Demoiselle N.*, in which he speaks of this fluid, p. 56, until within a few years. I knew nothing of Tardy's work until it was brought to my notice more than a year ago by my friend, Mr. Ashhurst Majendie; and I have been unable to procure a copy of it until within a few months. This is mentioned only to shew that the same facts had been observed in 1786, and bears out the remark that they have been noticed by different persons who could have no cognizance of each other, and at different times.

Having full reliance myself on the truth of all these statements, it remains only to hope that they will force the attention of the reflective part of the community to this branch of the very remarkable and interesting study of mesmerism.

XII. *Letter to Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., from Dr. Elliotson.*

SIR,—You have published a letter, as all agree, in the *Mail*, and evidently with the object of injuring mesmerism. You offer a £100 note to any person who shall read the particulars of the note and three English words written upon a slip of paper in which it is folded; there being also an endorsement on the envelope to this effect.

Now, Sir, allow me to ask you why you are so anxious about the truth of clairvoyance, when there are simple and intelligible points enough in mesmerism that you may ascertain in five minutes every day of the year, and of the highest importance to mankind in reference to their bodily sufferings, which you make your fortune by attempting to alleviate. Learning as you do, from all quarters, that mesmerism cures diseases, soothes the tormented, and absolutely prevents the agony of your surgical instruments, is it not your solemn duty to ascertain with all earnestness and dispatch, especially as the two arts of medicine and surgery which you profess are most lamentably imperfect, whether this be true or not? Believe me mesmerism is no subject for jokes, sneers, levity or contempt. If you are not philosopher enough to discover its grandeur, its mighty importance as a portion of universal nature, at least let the feelings of humanity as it is termed, but which even the brutes so often beautifully display, prompt you to ascertain its medical value. This would not be the less, were clairvoyance proved a delusion. There might still be humble useful iron, though gold were not to be found. But you exhibit the same range of intellect and feeling with Dr. Forbes, who, like you, cries out all day for clairvoyance! clairvoyance! and no more heeds the simpler and already practical truths which surround him, than the animals which rove the forest heed the wonders in botany, in geology, in astronomy, which are above and below their heads and around them. Thus Mr. Liston, when he had heard the details of the Nottinghamshire amputation case, how mesmerism had given the poor sufferer good nights, and improved his health, and enabled him to lose his leg without a pain, passed all this by, and with a stolid and unfeeling look, which I shall never forget, rose in the society to say he should be happy to know if the interesting patient had since the operation "learnt to read with his *belly*."* His question fell flat—no one replied. Thus a Dr. Lietch lately declared in public, that "he regards clairvoyance as the key stone to mesmerism, and that if it

* My Pamphlet, p. 56.

fails the whole structure falls.”* At the same time I am certain of the truth of clairvoyance.

* “Remarkable Exposure of an Anti-mesmeric Doctor.

“The following castigation (revised and abridged from the *Leamington Spa Courier*) was recently administered by Mr. Spencer T. Hall. It was at the close of a Course of Lectures, before a numerous and highly respectable audience, that Mr. Hall came forward and said, he held in his hand a newspaper,—the *Warwick Advertiser* of Saturday,—upon a letter in which not mesmerism only, but humanity, demanded that he should now make some remarks. That letter, entitled ‘Mesmerism in a Dilemma,’ and signed ‘Scrutator,’ could not originally have been intended for the paper in which it appeared, but for the *Leamington Courier*, for it began as follows:

‘To the Editor of the *Warwick Advertiser*

‘Sir,—I happened to be in Leamington in the early part of this year, when a person named Donovan was lecturing on mesmerism, and also on Wednesday last, when Mr. Spencer T. Hall gave his first lecture on this subject. I was amused and gratified, in common with the visitors and inhabitants of your beautiful Spa,—(do any of you know of a Spa at Warwick? asked Mr. Hall, amidst laughter,)—by the straight-forward, prompt, and effective manner in which Dr. Lietch exposed the hollow pretensions of the former lecturer, and by the manner in which he followed it up, as I saw by your paper, proving that the four Leamington boys who exhibited the “phenomena” on that occasion were “rogues all.” I was glad to see that the audience on Wednesday last, warned, I suppose, by their former mistake, did not attempt to hiss down the gentleman alluded to. In my own opinion, and it was the opinion of many who sat near me on Wednesday evening, Mr. Hall’s exhibition was the most lame, ridiculous, and transparently artful, on the part of the boys, that could well be shewn to an audience a-gape for wonders. The two young rogues should be well whipped, and taught some honest way of livelihood. . . . Mr. Hall, though evidently wishing to shirk the subject of *clairvoyance*, was compelled, by the questions of the querist, to assert that he *believed* in clairvoyance. . . . Having got all this distinctly asseverated by the lecturer,—as, indeed, with his book, and all books on the subject, staring him in the face, he could not well avoid doing,—Dr. Lietch then very *naïvely* declared that, for his part, he believed in the old-fashioned way, that people saw with their eyes, and with nothing else.’

“Then comes (said the speaker) Dr. Lietch’s challenge, with further compliments to Dr. Lietch, and abuse of myself; and the letter ends with a date from ‘Leamington.’ Now, it will be found in my book of ‘Mesmeric Experiences,’ which Dr. Lietch says he has read, that there is a history of my connection with the cases of William Holbrook and Henry Wigston, the youths alluded to, one of whom is a native of Nottingham, and the other of Leicester, in which towns respectively they are known to persons of station and influence, who can speak to their characters—characters in which I know no blemish. I have at my command, at least four hundred cases in different parts of the country, for any one of which I could send on an adequate occasion, but I prefer, at present, to operate upon these, because I have the most perfect faith in their integrity. ‘Scrutator’ has ventured to assert that they are ‘rogues;’ and, away as they are from their parents, by whom they are entrusted with me as their temporary guardian, I have felt myself called upon to repudiate, in the most emphatic manner, such a false imputation (Cheers). It was in this capacity, and from a due regard to the feelings of Henry Wigston, who is more specifically alluded to in this gross libel, and to the feelings of his parents, to whom his character and future prospects are most dear, that I called this day upon Mr. Sharpe, the publisher of the *Advertiser*, to demand the name of the author. Having myself been connected with the public press, for nearly sixteen years, and having in that time been identified with the management of several leading provin-

In utter defiance of history, you begin your letter by asserting that animal magnetism originated in Germany in

cial journals, I am not unaware of the liability of an editor to be imposed upon by unconscientious contributors.' Although knowing that the publisher of the paper was liable to an action for libel, in consideration of what I have now stated, I felt that it would be sufficient for the present case if the name of the writer were given up to me, that I might deal with him alone. Calling upon the publisher (Mr. Sharpe), he told me that he did not know the author, and argued somewhat irrationally in extenuation of the libel; but referred me to the editor (Mr. Hersee), who, without hesitation, and in the most prompt and courteous manner, informed me that Dr. LIETCH HIMSELF WAS THE GUARANTEE FOR ITS INSERTION! (Cheers and confusion.) As a further confirmation that it was Dr. Lietch who had thus been complimenting and endeavouring to raise himself, by abusing me and my patients, I can now repeat what I have already stated, that the day before that paper was published, Dr. L. used precisely the same language to me which he there applies to the boys, against whom he cannot prove a single act of dishonesty. In whom, then, is the deception? The boys, or Dr. Lietch? (Cheers, hisses, and signs of interruption from some individual in the back seats.) Now all that I require is, a fair hearing and clear justice. When Dr. Lietch wrote that letter, I was not there to interrupt him, nor will I now be interrupted by any man in my reply. Dr. Lietch has complimented himself on the 'naïve' manner in which he professes to have drawn me into certain admissions regarding clairvoyance; and having told us that he regards clairvoyance as the key-stone to mesmerism, and that if it fails the whole structure falls, he considers that he has completely established his point. You have most of you heard the anecdote of 'the brow-beating Barrister,' in Tvas's *Heads of the People*, who, having done all in his power to shake the testimony of a conscientious witness without success, boldly asks him if he has ever been at Birmingham? Being answered in the negative, he repeats the question with still greater pertinacity, 'Have you never been at Birmingham?' 'No.' 'Then tell me, and remember you are on your oath, have you never been at Manchester?' 'Yes.' 'There's a prevaricating fellow,' concludes the Barrister, and turning to the jury with a leer, says, 'I do not think it necessary to ask such a witness as that any more questions.' Just such was the course of conduct pursued by Dr. Lietch. When I was lecturing upon a class of phenomena totally different from clairvoyance, and whilst confessing that at that time I had no certain means of illustrating it, he 'naïvely' drew me into the simple admission that I believed it, and then professed to have disproved all the rest I had shewn, and you, Mr. Chairman, and others had tested. As well might he have argued that because clairvoyance could not, in circumstances inimical to its development, be proved, that would be sufficient evidence that James Wombell's leg had not been amputated without pain. Presuming (and fairly too for the reasons I have shewn) that Dr. Lietch, either wrote or dictated 'Scrutator's' letter, he further compliments himself, and endeavours to depreciate me and mesmerism, by alluding to the 'naïve' manner in which he exposed Mr. Donovan and his boys. Not being acquainted with Mr. Donovan, of him in this case I can say nothing; but there are gentlemen of veracity and honour in this room, at the present moment, who have furnished me with incontrovertible documentary evidence as to the trap baited by Dr. Lietch to catch one or more of the boys; gentlemen who will come forward and support it with their names should it be questioned. After these boys had been mesmerised by Mr. Donovan, Dr. Lietch took a policeman. (Cries of 'no, no.')

Well there was one present at Dr. Lietch's house, as if in attendance to apprehend a criminal. [Mr. H. Young here exclaimed, 'Only part of the time.' This observation was followed by mingled cheers and jeers.] Mr. Hall continued: Be it so—'only part of the time.' That a policeman was there, with handcuffs, is established by the fact that he received a fee for his services, and was subsequently reprimanded by his superior for taking

the early part of last century, and has lately been imported into this country, subjoining that "such at least is the general any part in the transaction (Cheers). By way of invalidating mesmerism, Dr. Lietch then told one of the boys, in a stern manner, that if he did not confess that he had been tricking those who believed in mesmerism, (the handcuffs having been displayed before his eyes,) he would be taken to gaol. (Sensation.) After this confession, thus wrung from him, he received from Dr. Lietch five shillings as a reward for his delinquency. (More sensation.) You have all heard of Jonathan Wild, the thief-trapper, who to satisfy his own selfish ends, bribed Jack Sheppard and others into one crime, and frightened them into another, that he might afterwards receive the benefit of their conviction. (Hear, hear, and hisses.) Is not Dr. Lietch, so far as science is concerned, in a position strictly analogous to this? (Cheers.) Have we not many instances in the history of our race, not of merely poor uneducated boys, but of great men, who for years have endured the severest persecution rather than relinquish a faith upon which they believed the eternal salvation of their souls to depend, but who at last have been driven by fear of the screw, and other tortures, to confess to imaginary crimes rather than incur the pains and obloquy of further persecution? And may it not, therefore, have followed that the boy to whom I have alluded, with the handcuffs and gaol before his eyes, and with no extraordinary degree of moral courage to sustain him, was, by the stimulation of his fears, and the other means used on this occasion, driven into betraying his conscience, unjustly to mesmerism, and for the gratification of its opponents? And let me ask whether or not, if a professor of mesmerism had ever employed similar means to induce a boy thus to belie himself in his favour, any man would have been more ready to condemn, and to hold him up to shame, than Dr. Lietch? (Cheers.) There is at the present time in Leamington a document, signed by the same boy, in the presence of a gentleman of the highest respectability, in which he avers that he really had been put into an abnormal condition by mesmerism by that gentleman, subsequently to the scene at Dr. Lietch's, and further that he had been induced to confess what he had done there, although that confession was false, by the fear of the punishment, and the hope of a promised bribe from his tempter and convict—Dr. LIETCH! (Cheers.)"

Just a similar occurrence took place at University College Hospital. A poor girl had been mesmerised by Dr. Wilson at the Middlesex Hospital, and exhibited, as I can vouch, many exquisite phenomena. She afterwards went to University College Hospital, under Dr. A. F. Thompson. He threatened her with the police, &c. &c., and terrified the poor creature so that she confessed she had shammed at the Middlesex: and was allowed to leave the hospital. But she went to Dr. Wilson and detailed the whole affair, stating that the violent threats of the doctor and his nephew had terrified her into saying anything they wished in order to escape from them.

The following is an extract from Dr. A. F. Thompson's hospital case book:—

"14th. It being suspected that the fits, and shaking of the right arm, &c., were feigned, and it being DESIROUS to ascertain the truth as to the mesmeric effects produced upon her at the Middlesex Hospital, Dr. A. F. T., with a view to detection, ordered mesmerism to be employed for a week. All medicines were omitted.

"She was mesmerised this afternoon, and went to sleep in twenty minutes. To test the reality of the sleep, the bystanders invented various phenomena which they asserted were always displayed by Okey when subjected to certain manipulations. These manipulations were then performed upon Lucy Morley, she being apparently in a state of perfect insensibility, and in every instance the effects followed; thus, for instance, when it was said that Okey's eyes were opened by rubbing in one direction, and shut by rubbing in another, and Morley's eyes were rubbed in the stated directions, they opened and shut as expected. In this manner she was made to breathe quickly or slowly, to shake the right or left arm, the right or left leg, to

opinion." Now Mesmer was born in 1734, and practised animal magnetism first in 1773.

You stigmatize Mesmer as an empiric. In what do you differ from him? He performed wonderful cures for money, so of course do you: and you will die a far richer man than Mesmer. If he often failed to cure, so do you every day of your life, receiving ample fees without bestowing benefit. He employed means without knowing more than the fact of their power; so do you. You cannot tell why a single medicine you employ acts as it does. You cannot tell why your ipecacuanha makes your patients sick, your rhubarb excites their bowels, or your opium stupifies them. You assert, in justice to Mesmer you say, that our doctrines and practices form no part of his system. I know of no doctrines entertained by the mass of us but the facts which we witness, and which, being in our senses, we believe. You declare that he employed powerful magnets for his cures, whereas we do not. Now before you write mesmeric history, you ought to know that Mesmer, who derived his views from English and German writers of the *three* preceding centuries, did actually in 1776, the very third year of his new treatment of diseases, give up the use of magnets furnished to him by Hehl, the Jesuit and professor of astronomy at Vienna, and employed, as we do, manipulations and simply the powers of our own human frame. Additions to our knowledge have been made since his time: but that no more prevents us from being his followers, than the discoveries of Herschel renders modern astronomers no longer followers of Galileo. If he fancied a magnetic fluid, so do some at the present day, though

draw up the arms or legs, to wake up or go into delirium, and to display all the phenomena of 'traction.'

"15th. The experiments were tried again to-day with the same success, in addition she was made to prophecy in the prophetic state. She sat with her legs crossed, (as the bystanders mentioned that Okey did so,) and saw a black man with black hair, dressed in black clothes, who ordered her to be bled immediately.

"17th. To-day most of the former experiments were repeated; in addition she was led to believe that Okey was always thrown into fits by rubbing the mucous membrane of the mouth, and that the fits were stopped by pinching the chin. Accordingly when the inside of the mouth was rubbed with the forefinger or with metals, she acted most violent fits in a very superior style; the fits were suspended by pinching the chin. After this she endured without evincing any sensibility the most severe pinches, pulling of the hair, ATTEMPTS TO RAISE THE NAIL FROM THE FINGERS, pricking with a pin, and very intense shocks given her by an electro-magnetic machine. Dr. A. F. T. considering that no more experiments were necessary, put an end to the exhibition by charging her with the imposition, and exhorting her to confess, which she did as far as the mesmeric phenomena were concerned, but persisted in declaring that she could not help the fits.—Discharged cured."

The girl was no doubt in sleep-waking, and did all the acts madly by suggestion, forgetting them on returning to her natural state.

many of us do not venture upon this hypothesis, and speak only of a power, without fancying its essence or regarding it as more than one of the properties of matter in certain conditions and circumstances.

You assert that the French commissioners ascribed all the influence to imagination; whereas what they witnessed at the house of his pupil, Dr. Eslon, shamefully refusing to see Mesmer's own facts, they ascribed to imagination, *touching*, and imitation: and they were nearly right, though the touching exerted a power independent of all sense of touch, and not conceived by them. Imagination has astonishing influence upon mesmeric patients; and imitation likewise, when patients are allowed to be together.

You next inform us that "Mesmer died, and with him died his art." Now Mesmer died in 1815, and his pupil, the Marques de Puységur, published works upon mesmerism and practised it from 1784 to 1824: his pupil, Deleuze, from 1813 to 1829: the year after, Mr. Chenevix practised upon several of my patients in St. Thomas's Hospital.* There has been continued existence from 1776 to 1846, as you might know by merely looking into an excellent book so commonly known as Foissac's *Rapports*, and the numbers of *The Zoist*.

You then write that you determined upon an honest and satisfactory course, and upon a searching experimental enquiry, having "witnessed experiments of mesmerism conducted by the most celebrated professors at home and abroad," but that they were unsatisfactory, "because the parties operated upon were either confessedly the associates or pupils, *not to say confederates*, of the magnetizers;" meanly adding, "or they might have been, for anything I knew to the contrary." You dare to suggest that the patients I bestowed two hours and a half on two different days to shew you, in company with only a few persons, were my confederates! I will remind you of what took place. Sir J. Courcy de Laffan, after witnessing the phenomena of the Okeys, wrote to me to request I would give you an opportunity of witnessing my facts. You witnessed them for two hours and a half. I then received a letter from Sir J. C. L., saying that

"The Surgeon-General Crampton was greatly struck by all that he saw the other day, and wishes very much to make further enquiries into the phenomena of magnetism under your guidance. He therefore requested me to say that he would be greatly obliged to you, if you could make it convenient to give him a meeting at the Hospital, on Monday next, at your usual hour of three o'clock. He

* *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 58.

is obliged to name an early day as his time in London is limited, and the time of his departure is fixed. Therefore, my dear Sir, by fixing on Monday for the meeting, you will afford a very *sensible, dispassionate, and enquiring* man, the only opportunity he may ever have, of carrying on the investigation, under the control of your enlightened experience, and enlarged views."

I had spent two or three hours in demonstrating the exquisite effects of mesmerised gold, silver, water, &c., of iron, traction, and various manipulations upon the Okeys. Your astonishment was extreme, and at your request I bestowed the same time upon you again, and allowed you to make the experiments yourself that you might have full satisfaction. At the close, Sir Joseph Laffan asked if you were satisfied of the truth of all you had seen. You replied, "perfectly." He then asked, knowing you, I have no doubt, better than I did then, "But will you say so when you get back to Dublin?" "I will," was your reply, in the hearing of us all.

I will refresh your memory from the *Lancet* of 1838, by some passages in the deputy coroner's (Mr. George Mills) reports, which are perfectly true.

"The opinion of the Surgeon-General of Ireland, Mr. Crampton, also, after two investigations, on the 7th and 9th of July, occupying each nearly three hours, into phenomena exhibited by Elizabeth Okey, has been pronounced in favour of the perfect honesty of the somnambulist, and the reality of the extraordinary events which occurred on those occasions." p. 549.

"Being stupified by holding some object, the money, or glass, or whatever else, it is rigidly grasped. If a hand be then pointed to the girl's fingers for a few seconds, they relax, and drop the object. After several evidences of this fact, Mr. Crampton remarked that 'he had never in his life seen any effect more perfectly demonstrated.'" p. 587.

"She was now put to sleep, and nothing could be greater than the contrast between the sedateness of the state from which she had passed, and the lively, acute, saucy manner of the ensuing delirium. Nor could anything be more opposite than the manner of the delirium and the quiet, amiable, invalid demeanour of the state in which she returned to the ward. Before retiring, however, Mr. Crampton was shown the convulsions producible by placing drops of magnetised water on her shoulders, the alæ of the nose, the lips, the brows, the hands, and, lastly, from touching the naked eyeball. The demoniac-looking convulsions of the face produced by this latter proceeding were remarkable; the eyes stared almost to starting, and the head was twisted on the neck in every direction, and when the agitation was soothed by mesmerism, the jaw was found firmly locked. 'There could not,' Mr. Crampton said, 'be the least question of the truth of these effects.' She was returned into the natural state by Dr.

Elliotson and Mr. Wood simultaneously breathing upon the face. 'It is too absurd,' Mr. Crampton observed, at the close of the experiments, 'to deny that these phenomena are real. She has manifested a series of the most sudden and extraordinary changes, probably, that were ever seen in one person in the same interval. Indeed, in every transition from one state to another that I have ever seen in any other patient or person, there has always been a *nuance*; but here there is not the slightest, however great the change, or however frequent.' " p. 588.

"In one experiment to-day, two pieces of money among twelve were strongly magnetised, under the direction of Mr. Crampton. Of the whole twelve these two alone put her to sleep, and their effect was so great, that the hands did not unclose when the sleep came on, but convulsions of the arms and eyes ensued, and persisted until the sovereigns were released from her grasp. 'There could be no arrangement here,' Mr. C. observed, in stating which two pieces he had handled; 'it was perfectly accidental how many I took up. Nothing could be more uniform than the results of those experiments.' " p. 589.

"Mr. Crampton then tried some experiments with watches which had, and others which had not, been held in his hand. In each instance the former stupified her and the latter did not. 'These,' he afterwards remarked, 'were as fair experiments as ever were made. She could not have had the least idea of what I was doing. It is impossible that anything could be fairer. Nothing in physiology can be more interesting.' " p. 589.

And you kept your promise at first. But soon a laugh was raised against you, and being a worldly fashionable practitioner, happy in the smiles of the great, and not a humble student and devotee of nature, you could not bear to be laughed at by the ignorant, and published the following letter in the *Freeman's Journal*:

"Sir,—In the *Freeman's Journal* of the 20th July last, there is a paragraph (copied I believe from a provincial paper) in which I am represented as having 'avowed myself' a convert to the extraordinary and inexplicable doctrine of animal magnetism."

"Without dwelling on the absurdity, if not the impossibility, of becoming a convert to 'an inexplicable doctrine,' I beg to assure you that the statement is without the slightest foundation.

"That very extraordinary affections of the nervous system, may in certain instances be excited by (so called) animal magnetism, is a *fact* which I believe no medical man is inclined to dispute; but from the *doctrines* founded on this fact, (as set forth in the treatises which I have seen on the subject,) I totally dissent.

"I have the honour to be,

"PHILIP CRAMPTON.

"Merrion Square, Aug. 1st, 1838."

This you desired a friend to shew me in the following letter:

"Merrion Square, Feb. 3rd, 1839.

"My dearest —, Pray lose no time in transmitting the enclosed to Dr. Elliotson; he is far too sensible and too liberal a man not to perceive at once, and without any commenting of mine, that I have said nothing in my letters inconsistent with those feelings of admiration and respect, which I have ever entertained and avowed for his talents, integrity, and boldness.

"He will not, I am sure, think that I am the less sensible of the kind attention which I experienced from him in London, because I cannot go the length of adopting his opinion on a subject on which I am profoundly ignorant, and on which would require more time than I can ever hope to command, in order to arrive at anything approaching to knowledge.

"I am, dearest —

"Affectionately yours,

"P. CRAMPTON."

Now I broached no "doctrines," I uttered no "opinion" to you: I simply shewed you facts, produced by certain measures; and left you to judge if they were facts, and if they resulted from certain measures. You did distinctly at the time allow both, and moreover in your public letter said that "very extraordinary affections may in certain individuals be excited by so-called animal magnetism." But this is all I have ever said—and yet you cannot go the length of my opinions! So disgusted was I, that a year or two ago, meeting you one morning at a party at King's College, I pointedly avoided you every time I found myself near you. You at length came up to me, and, finding I did not notice you, politely told me that you were Sir Philip Crampton; on which, calmly looking you in the face, I merely replied, "Yes. I believe I spent some hours on two different days to demonstrate mesmeric facts to you:" and without another word I walked from you. You shewed that you felt this, but uttered not a word; nor did I ever hear of you afterwards.

After asserting that my patients might have been my confederates, you continue:

"On one occasion, in Hanover Square Rooms, a young woman (one of the audience,) upon much persuasion on the part of her friends, and the most energetic assurances, on the part of the professor, that she should not be put to the smallest pain or inconvenience, was induced to submit herself to the operation. She exhibited several extraordinary mesmeric phenomena, such as inflexible rigidity of the limbs, insensibility to the effluvia of ammonia, and to the punctures of pins, &c.; but the effect of this exhibition was considerably weakened when I discovered that this novice, taken by chance from the audience, was an old acquaintance, whom I had seen exhibit the very same phenomena four years before under the hands of M. Dupotet."

Now these are the facts. When I was curing patients at University College Hospital wonderfully and at no expense, Mr. Wollaston, a practitioner at Tottenham, sent me up a very nice girl afflicted with severe epilepsy. She was cured by M. Dupotet, and in her mesmeric state exhibited many wonderful phenomena. After this, M. Dupotet prevailed upon her, though with difficulty, to allow him to mesmerise her at his demonstrations in his own house. Long after his departure, M. De la Fontaine exhibited a French youth, whose case was genuine and striking: but he wanted another subject, and I thought of Sophia Clark, and wrote to Mr. Wollaston, who prevailed upon her to accompany him to me one morning of M. De la F.'s exhibitions. I mesmerised her, found her still susceptible, and she went after great entreaty with Mr. Wollaston to the Hanover Square Rooms,—not as one of the audience, but on the platform as one to be exhibited. She was very reluctant, as the room was public and crowded, and M. De la F. a stranger to her. But on Mr. Wollaston's assurance that he would remain with her and protect her from all injury in her sleep, she at length consented to be sent off. This is the true history, and I entered the room just before the experiments were finished, and heard you announce your wonderful discovery that you had seen her mesmerised before by M. Dupotet. How this could weaken the effect of the facts which you allow,—“the several *very extraordinary* mesmeric phenomena, such as *inflexible rigidity* of the limbs, *insensibility* to the effluvia of ammonia, and to the punctures of pins, &c.,”—I am unable to judge. She was and is a most respectable young woman, and a younger sister has been epileptic too.

You say you were manipulated yourself, as well as several of your friends, but with no effect. Why so have I, by many: and I have mesmerised three persons daily for half an hour for months without effect. What is one trial, or two, or fifty? Some persons have never in all their lives felt sick on going to sea: some of your ordinary patients have told me that your medicines never lessened their diseases. What of that? Is there no balm in Gilead or any where else, because none grows in one garden? You then attended some private experiments where collusion was impossible: and a clairvoyant that day happened not to be clairvoyant, possibly because of your sceptical presence. Some trials were made of touching over cerebral organs, and then suggesting another feeling or idea by saying something. Truly a most sagacious proceeding! The feelings are often so excitable in the mesmeric state that suggestion, imagination,

has a powerful effect, and I have stated that you may suggest a feeling or idea by touching the nose or chin. If a patient is thus excitable, and the organs not excitable or less excitable by the mesmeric means of touching or pointing over them, a wrong effect may be produced at pleasure. These experiments should be made in perfect silence, on a person ignorant of cerebral physiology, and if possible by pointing. You should read what I have said in Vol. I., p. 239.

Despairing of satisfaction of the truth of mesmerism after being so satisfied in my hospital in 1838, you have contrived the present bank-note test. But I trust no clairvoyant will allow himself to be so tested. Let all remember how you served me after clear protestation and promises. Let all remember the incorrect statements in your present letter. Let all remember that you have made the matter unlikely to succeed. The note is folded up, so that one word may be in one fold, another in another, and the words will lie on each other: and as if the words on the note were not enough, you have added others on a slip of paper, probably folded likewise: on the envelope are more words, through which the words of the folded paper are to be seen, and then through all these words, the words of the note also lying one upon the other in its folds. You ought to have been contented with writing one or two words, and, not folding them, placing them in a thick envelope.* But

* An excellent answer to Sir P. Crampton's letter has appeared in the *Cheltenham Free Press*, March 28, from which I extract the following facts:

"We now come to the offer of the £100 note. It is required that the clairvoyant should describe all the particulars of the note or bill, including number, signature, &c., and also read three English words. Now to those who have not seen many clairvoyant cases, this appears to be a noble offer—an extremely fair challenge—and an experiment that mesmerisers ought to be quite satisfied with. And so ought they, did they ever assert clairvoyance to be a *perfect* faculty. Alexis, one of the most successful instances of its manifestations missed the prize offered in France, because he could only make out the word 'potuit' which he said was the third word of a latin sentence. Now here was quite *sufficient* to prove his possession of the disputed faculty, but not enough to win the money. Again, I heard him once describe a £5 Bank of England note enclosed in a piece of paper. On one side of the paper there was written an account of what it contained, and on the other side the letters A : W : the whole placed in a flexible leather card-case, which was wrapped in paper and sealed; this parcel was presented to Alexis by a sceptical medical practitioner. Alexis said that the parcel contained two sorts of paper and that there was both writing and printing in it; he then took a pencil and wrote on a piece of paper the letters A : W : which was written inside, and which he wrote with a colon after each letter; he said the packet also contained a miniature of the Queen in ink, with flowers round it, and that he could make out the word 'Angland;' if any one would take the trouble of folding a £5 note three times; he will find the figure of Britannia uppermost, and at the last fold immediately behind the figure, the word 'England' present itself. This partial success, although in my opinion sufficient to convince any reasonable man, was not enough to have gained the £100. Had there been collusion in this case, why did he

why be anxious about clairvoyance,—a mysterious, a comparatively rare and uncertain phenomenon? Why not ascertain whether the elementary facts of sleep-waking, rigidity, insensibility, &c., are real phenomena? Why not ascertain whether mesmerism prevents pain in torturing surgical operations and cures diseases for which you are hourly taking money for vain attempts to cure or even alleviate? And why not make all these trials yourself, as Dr. Esdaile did, instead of writing letters characterized by error, superficiality and flippancy, and scraps of poetry? This is your duty.

You terminate your letter with a miserable remark :

"I must, however, just observe, in conclusion, that I find it difficult to reconcile all these facts of mesmerisers with the generally received notions of moral liberty, and consequent accountability: perhaps the Archbishop of Dublin may be able to do so. I'll see about it to-morrow."

You must be sadly at a loss, sadly uneasy, to stoop to this meanness. The distinguished archbishop is said to be a believer in mesmerism and the true cerebral physiology called phrenology : and therefore this hit at his Grace. Among all philosophers it is now agreed that truth only shall guide us : that all alleged consequences are to be disregarded, if a thing can be proved true. To talk of consequences in the investigation of truth is always the mean artifice of one who is conscious that his arguments fail him. Will you inform the world what is moral liberty,—what is accountability : and whether mesmeric facts oppose the idea of free will,—that is, will with a necessary and irresistible cause, and support accountability, that is, the taking the consequences of conduct as results ensuing upon our deeds by the immutable laws of nature,—any more than any other facts in the human constitution? The writer in the Cheltenham paper closes his answer thus :

"Scrutator* demands how the phenomena of phreno-magnetism can be reconciled with 'the received notions of moral agency.'

not describe the whole? If there was none, was the A: W: with the colons a lucky guess?"

The writer also has the following sentence; whether he refers to Sir P. C. or Dr. Forbes, I know not :

"A writer against mesmerism expresses his conviction of the *whole* of animal magnetism being a delusion; the same writer, *in private*, declares his conviction that there is a real and powerful agent operating; will Scrutator maintain that such discrepancy between the *published* and *private* opinion is conformable to 'the generally received notions of moral rectitude?'"

* Sir P. C. so signs himself instead of putting his name like a man.

Will he be so good as to explain what *are* the *received* notions? Are they such as *he* can reconcile with the well-known effects produced by strong liquors, intoxicating drugs, and some other powerful medicines, which we know are not seldom administered secretly for the worst purposes?

"In conclusion, allow me to suppose the following case. A writer against mesmerism expresses his conviction of the *whole* of animal magnetism being a delusion; the same writer in *private* declares his conviction that there *is* a real and powerful agent operating. Will Scrutator maintain that such discrepance between the *published* and *private* opinion is conformable to 'the generally received notions of moral rectitude?'"

The writer might also have asked how deep is the feeling, which Scrutator possesses, of "*accountability*?"

I have the honor to remain, &c. &c.,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Postscript to Mr. Luxmoore's account of Miss Hole's Case,
at p. 52.

London, March 20, 1846.

Being anxious to learn whether Miss Hole's prediction was verified, I wrote to Mr. Luxmoore; but as I directed to Alphington only, without the addition of Exeter or Devon, my letter travelled half over England, and did not reach the gentleman till yesterday. The following is his answer.

J. ELLIOTSON.

During Miss Hole's sleep-waking, on the 3rd of March, after the spasms had ceased, she said, "I shall have another attack of spasms on the 9th, when I must be again bled to the entire of half a pint, (on the 7th she corrected this, saying, three parts of a pint would be necessary); the spasms will be just as severe as to-night, but will not last so long. I shall not retain much food on my stomach until Thursday morning. I should always be mesmerised the following day as well as at the time caustic is applied, I should then derive much more benefit." Miss H. then added, "If I am not bled I shall have palsy of the left side of the head and left eye, and I should lose the hearing in the left ear; if it were even omitted for one day this would take place. The spasms on the 9th will only last half an hour. I must have aperient medicine the same evening, and tonic four times the following day, two table-spoonful each dose; the medicine should be the same sort I have before had from Mr. Parker. The spasms will commence at a little before six in the evening, and I should be bled a few minutes after that hour."

On the 9th of March, at quarter before six p.m., Mr. Parker and I visited Miss Hole, and found her very unwell,

suffering from a benumbed feeling of the left side of the head, and slight spasms. I mesmerised her into sleep-waking in a few minutes. Just before six the spasms became more violent; at ten minutes after six she was bled; in half an hour the spasms had almost ceased. After which she said, "I shall sleep three hours and a half after I am in bed to-night, commencing at half-past eleven; to-morrow night I shall sleep four hours and ten minutes after two in the morning." Both these predictions were verified; indeed in every particular she is most accurate. An account written after the circumstances have occurred could not be more correct than the statement Miss H. makes of what will take place respecting herself. After the spasms had left, she added, "I shall be very poorly on the 15th; I shall suffer a great deal of pain in the back, especially on the left side. I must have medicine for it,—the same sort I have before had from Mr. Parker for that complaint; it must be continued one day and one night every six hours. I shall also have difficulty in breathing that day, which must be relieved by a mustard poultice over the chest; it should be applied at seven o'clock in the evening." She suffered precisely as she had foretold, and her own remedies were resorted to with the best possible effect. Before I first commenced mesmerising Miss Hole, she rejected almost all her food and also her medicine, since which she has rejected (with the trifling exception above named) nothing worth speaking of; and she is considered both by herself, her friends, and medical attendant, to be in a much better state of health than she has been for years.

J. C. LUXMOORE.

JOHN BATTISHILL PARKER, M.R.C.S.L.

Postscript to the Review of Reichenbach, p. 122.

I received this note from Captain James, of Dover, this morning (March 30th).

J. ELLIOTSON.

In one of your notes you ask me whether any of my patients have perceived "flashes, sparks, &c." I never ask the question, but allow them to make their own remarks. One patient (a case of pure catalepsy) perceives flashes and sparks proceeding from my fingers when I mesmerise another patient in her presence, particularly when I advanced my fingers with a darting motion. One or two others have remarked the same, but they are the exceptions generally.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The American Journal of Insanity, edited by the Editors of the New York State Lunatic Asylum. Utica; October, 1845.

Phrenology—its Natures and Uses: an Address to the Students of Anderson's University, at the opening of Dr. Weir's First Course of Lectures on Phrenology in that Institution, January 7th, 1846. Edinburgh. By Andrew Combe, M.D.*

The New Church Advocate and Examiner. No. 1. January, 1846; London.

The Phrenological Journal. January, 1846.

A Reply to a Letter addressed by Charlotte Elizabeth to Miss Martineau.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Embling, surgeon, of Brompton Row, who like his neighbours, Mr. Woolly and Mr. G. Woolly, both believes in and practises mesmerism, "calls our attention to an admirable 'Easy Chair,' excellently adapted for invalids in general, and particularly to patients being mesmerised. He believes it can be obtained at any old established upholsterer's, but a pattern chair is to be seen, I understand, at the Office of the Patentee, Mr Chianock, 7, Gerrard Street, Soho."

Madlle. Julie, we have not seen, nor are we acquainted with her powers: but a gentleman, who has every quality of a gentleman, says the letter in the *Athenæum* "appears to me to come from the pen of some low inferior person, devoid of gentlemanly feelings. Madlle. Julie is not of high birth, but her character, against which he has insinuated, is deserving of the highest praise, and she conducts herself with the greatest decorum. I have been given to understand from good authority that she has taken upon herself the payment of very heavy debts incurred by her father, who is dead, and nearly supports her mother (who has a small pension), and undertakes to educate her only sister. Her manners are also far from vulgar,—but even was it all true that Dr. Forbes states, I think he would have done himself no credit in publishing the letter he has."

Mr. J. A. Gordon has our best thanks, and his suggestions shall be attended to in our next number, if there is room.

* "We view with delight the circumstance of a lectureship of Phrenology being appointed in this University. We regret, however, that one was not appointed of a somewhat higher standing, and of a more liberal turn of mind than Dr. Weir. Still the very fact of the institution of a professorship in a University is a matter of the utmost importance; and we hail it as the advent of a new era in this science."—*Elgin Courier*, Feb. 20.

Sir P. Crampton. His shewy offer runs thus. We copy it from the *Examiner*, of January 17th. "Bank, Henry Street, Dublin, Jan. 7, 1846.—In answer to the numerous inquiries which have been made respecting the lodgment of a hundred pound note in the Bank of Messrs. Ball and Co., to be paid to any person, who shall, by the operation of mesmerism, describe the particulars of the note, I beg leave to say that such a lodgment has been made in this bank, and on the envelope in which it is contained is the following endorsement:—'This envelope contains a bank note for one hundred pounds, which will immediately become the property of the person who, without opening the envelope, shall describe, in the presence of Philip Doyne, Esq., and Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., every particular of the said note, namely—the bank from which it was issued, the date, the number, and the signatures attached to it, and who shall read a sentence, consisting of a few English words, plainly written, and which is contained in the same envelope with the half-note.'—(Signed) James Dudgeon."

The *Manchester Practitioner* is referred to his book, p. 27, where we are told to hold a bright object above the patient's eyes, and "produce the greatest possible strain upon the eyes and eyelids:" and to a letter which we have seen from Dr. Chawner to Dr. Elliotson, in which he says he followed "the method which he saw" the *Manchester practitioner* "use," and kept the eyes at "a double internal squint." The double internal squint was a mighty point at one time.

Mr. Horatio Prater informs us that if we pass the middle or forefinger very lightly downwards over our own upper eyelid or that of another person, many times in succession, it will be found impossible to open the eyes till a current of air is directed on them, or till the eyelashes or eyelids are touched. He supposes that if the eyes cannot be opened, a loss of their power is induced: but it is spasm that is induced, like the rigidity of the arms by long contact passes. The eyes close in common sleep not from debility, but active contraction. The effect of the contact passes with the finger is merely an instance of local mesmerism. Mr. Prater's eyes were sometimes opened by blowing against a sheet of paper or a fine paper box placed before them.

We have tried the experiment fairly, with a hundred or more movements of the finger upon a dozen persons, who were not susceptible of mesmerism: and succeeded but in one, and she had in vain gone through the process of mesmerisation daily for very many weeks.

E. W. Those who doubt the permanency of mesmeric cures when care is taken, are referred to Vol. III., p. 354.

Many valuable communications from most esteemed correspondents are postponed through the abundance of pressing matter, which has made the number run on to nearly ten sheets instead of six.

ERRATA in No. XII.

- Page 409, line 9, for "our" read *are*.
 416, line 6 in note, for "not" read *now*.
 445, line 24, for "decided" read *divided*.
 446, 11, for "mad" read *most*.
 480, 32, for "shew" read *showing*.
 494, 25, for "disappointment" read *disappointed*.
 525, 25, for "a medical man" read *medical men*.
 533, 20, for "need" read *read*.
 535, 25, for "possession" read *profession*.
 538, 18, for "obstruction" read *obstructive*.
 539, 3, for "his" read *two*.
 540, 31, for "adopt it as" read *adopt us*.
 545, 34, for "Jones" read *Holmes*.